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Arrangement of the Lectures before Easter:
Twelve Lectures on Physiology and Comparative Anatomy. By Thomas Henry Huxley, Esq., F.R.S., Fullerian Professor of Physiology, R. L. To commence on Tuesday, January 22nd, 1856, at 3 o'clock; and to be continued on each succeeding Tuesday, at the same hour.

Eight Lectures on Light. By John Tyndall, Esq., F.R.S., Professor of Natural Philosophy, R. L. To commence on Thursday, January 24th, 1856, at 3 o'clock; and to be continued on each succeeding Thursday, at the same hour.

Eight Lectures on Organic Chemistry. By William Odling, Esq., M.B., Professor of Practical Chemistry at Guy's Hospital. To commence on Saturday, January 26th, 1856, at 3 o'clock; and to be continued on each succeeding Saturday, at the same hour.

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Conditions of the Award of the First Macdonald-Brisbane Prize.
1. The First Brisbane Prize will be adjudicated by the Council of the Royal Society of Edinburgh as early as practicable during the Session 1856-57. The competing Essays are to be given in to the Secretary of the Society or before the 1st December 1856.

2. The competition is open to all men of science.
3. The Essays may be either anonymous or otherwise. In the former case they must be distinguished by mottoes, with corresponding sealed billets subscribed with the same motto, and containing the name of the author.

4. The first award will be in the form of a Gold Medal of Fifteen Guineas value. In future Biennial Adjudications the value of the prize will be greater.

5. The subject proposed by the Council for the Prize of 1856-57 is the following:—
A Biographical Notice of a Scotchman eminent in Science; including an estimate of the influence and importance of his writings and discoveries.

As instances of such Biographies which still remain to be supplied, the Council would specify the following names:—Macdunnachie, Black, Monro Primus and Secundus, several of the family of Gregory, Sir James Hall, Jameson. The earlier volumes of the Transactions of the Royal Society contain several specimens of able Biographies of the kind referred to. The Council are anxious to see a continuation of the series.

6. The Council impose no restriction as to the length of the Essays, which may be, at the discretion of the Council, read at the Ordinary Meetings of the Society. They wish also to leave the free disposal of the manuscripts to the authors; a copy, however, being deposited in the archives of the Society, unless the paper shall be published in the Transactions.

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R. G.—1. We believe by Mr. Gibson, Bookseller, Nottingham;
2. We do not know one.

THE CRITIC, London Literary Journal.

THE LITERARY WORLD: ITS SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

SINCE our last impression we have received, an authoritative contradiction to the statement which we made respecting the authorship of the story of "The Boots," in the Christmas Number of *Household Words*. We are informed that the story in question was not written by Mr. SALA, but by Mr. DICKENS. In justice to ourselves we must at once declare that our former statement was based upon testimony not less direct and positive than that which now contradicts it. Under these circumstances we have no alternative but to wait until time or the authors themselves vouchsafe a clear explanation of the mystery. It will be remembered, however, that we only cited this particular story as a happy illustration of the unfortunate mystifications arising out of the anonymous system; and these conflicting statements only serve to prove our case still more completely. There can be no doubt that the general public have attributed "Miss Tattyboy's Rents," "Cogswells," "Music in Paving-stones," &c., &c., to Mr. DICKENS; and the French volume to which we have already referred affords a very good proof of the erroneous impressions which arise respecting the authorship of articles in *Household Words*. We observe that the usual notice under the Copyright Treaty is now inserted in this periodical, with a view to the prevention of unauthorised translations for the future. We need scarcely add to this explanation that nothing could be further from our intention than to attempt to take from Mr. DICKENS one iota of the honour due to him.

The want of education, even among the higher classes, has received a curious illustration in Sir CHARLES NAPIER's late correspondence with the *Times*. It is proverbially perilous to meddle with edge-tools, and the *Times* is an implement of rather more than ordinary sharpness. It is not a book that it wishes its enemy to write, but a letter; and woe be to the hapless wretch that presumes to trust his handwriting into Printing-house-square, if his letter be not sweetened with a few honeyed references to "your powerful and impartial organ," "your uniform liberality," &c. &c. Sir CHARLES NAPIER, feeling his manly ire aroused at the aspersions cast upon his cloth by the great censor of the press, indited a letter in defence of the navy, and bluntly telling its contemner to mind his own business. The letter was not exactly a model of style, nor yet of exact logic; but it was easy to see what the gallant Admiral was driving at. In spelling and punctuation, it was just the sort of thing one might have expected from a gallant old veteran in too great a passion to take much heed of LINDLEY MURRAY. Sir CHARLES depended for the mere mechanical accuracy of his lucubration upon the compositor, reader, sub-editor, and the like. What cared he for vowels and colons when his object was to defend his honour and that of the navy? The way in which the *Times* has treated the communication is characteristic. It denies the statements (which it had a perfect right to do); it hints that the gallant Admiral was tipsy when he wrote the letter (which it had no right to do); and it prints the letter exactly as it was received—misspelling, punctuation, and want of punctuation, all precisely copied from the original. The last was a most unfair proceeding; in the first place, because Sir CHARLES could, probably, have made most of the necessary corrections himself if he had seen a *proof* of his letter; and in the next place, because, even if he could not, his ignorance is no disgrace to him as a sailor, or disparagement to his judgment as a commander. Of course the *dodge* has produced a great deal of laughter at the expense of Sir CHARLES; but we wonder what the writer of the very clever and satirical leading-article upon the subject would have thought, if the reader and sub-editor of the *Times* had neglected to amend the imperfections of his manuscript. We have a shrewd fancy that it would not have read either so accurately or so glibly as it now does. Some years ago the *Times* avenged itself upon a member who accused the reporters of

"garbling" his speeches by giving them exactly as they were delivered; but to print manuscript exactly as it is written is a very different affair. Some of the very best professional writers cannot write or even spell correctly, until they see a rough *proof* of their composition. But supposing it were otherwise, and Sir CHARLES NAPIER to be really as ignorant as the *Times* edition of his letter would seem to imply, pray where is the harm? We never yet heard of the warrior who was remarkable as a precisian. ALEXANDER the GREAT would probably have made but a poor hand with his pen, though his fondness for the *Iliad* stamps him as somewhat of a literary character; and although CÆSAR wrote "Commentaries," it is supposed that he was not without a secretary to correct and amend his composition. If any one supposes OLIVER CROMWELL to have cared much for spelling or stopping, let him refer to the letters in Mr. CARLYLE's collection. So that he had the right word, it mattered little to him how he spelt it. We are afraid that if the pedagogue of Printing House Square had wielded a ferula when MARLBOROUGH won Ramillies, the sins against orthography in his despatch announcing the event would have effectually dulled the glory of the military achievement. MAURICE DE SAXE's ignorance of scholastic lore was so notorious that a dramatist has introduced him upon the stage learning to read La Fontaine from his beloved ADRIENNE LECOUCREUR. NAPOLEON the GREAT could neither write nor speak French correctly. FREDERICK the GREAT was, perhaps, an exception to the rule, for he wrote seventeen volumes of works; but his literary productions are so insufferably dull that we never yet met with a person who had had the courage to read them. Having regard to these facts, how can we blame Sir CHARLES NAPIER for his defective spelling and punctuation?

To prove that purism does not always carry the day over rugged truth and natural eloquence, we need go no further than Oxford, where we find Mr. CARDWELL, a polished and practised debater, a pupil of GLADSTONE, a follower of PEELE, one of the most specious disciples of ESCOBAR known in these days, pitted on the one side, and plain JOHN BACON, "a working-man," on the other, and the honourable member got the worst of it. There was something so strong and so sensible about that horny-fisted and hard-headed JOHN BACON, that the subtle debater, the man of shifts and artifices, had not the ghost of a chance with him. JOHN BACON knew nothing about the forms of logic, but he knew that he and his fellows would never consent to have a dishonourable peace; he was unable to quote you pages of trade-returns from memory, but he thought that all the trade in the world was no fit compensation for the loss of a good name; and so he told the honourable member in good set terms, and the people cheered him, and the honourable member sank straightway into his shoes, or into some other insignificant corner of the great limbo of Nowhere. What a fine, manly, Magna-Charterish sort of smack there was about that JOHN BACON, when he spoke of the honourable member as "that individual who has the honour of representing us in Parliament."

We have taken occasion more than once to comment upon the absurdity of hailing the appointment of any particular man of letters to a public office of trust as a recognition paid to literature in general, or even as a proof that the notion is passing away that men whose occupations are exclusively literary are unfit for official duties. Did we not know by what means offices are bestowed, what side-winds of interest, what a resultant force of small pressures, are brought to bear upon the matter, we might suffer the notion to pass by as one of those amiable weaknesses which do no harm to any one. A certain portion of the press is jubilant with glee about the appointment of Mr. FORSTER (the biographer of GOLDSMITH and the editor of the *Examiner*) to the office of Secretary to the Lunacy Commissioners. Every editor in *esse* or *posse* seems to see "looming in the future" a golden age, in which successful journalists are to be provided with snug berths and incomes ranging at about eight hundred or a thousand a year. Alas! what a vision! A man must have some stronger influence than mere journalist influence to get upon the rounds of the official ladder. The truth is Mr. FORSTER has got his appointment not so much in consequence as in spite of his connection with journalism. Generally speaking, it is not for men who perform their duty to the public as honestly and as

fearlessly as the editor of the *Examiner* to taste the sweets of official life. We imagine that the reverend gentleman whose name is freely mentioned in connection with the leading-article columns of the *Times* has not much chance of becoming a Bishop. SIDNEY SMITH's literary reputation deprived the Prelacy of a man who would have been one of its brightest ornaments; and, although it is the fashion to say that times are changed, we cannot bring ourselves to think that were he now among us the case would have been otherwise.

As a sort of set-off to the honour done to literature in the person of Mr. FORSTER there is a terrible hubbub about a pension of twenty-five pounds per annum granted to Mr. HAYDN, the compiler of the *Dictionary of Dates*, the *Book of Dignities*, and other useful works of reference. To this Act of Lord PALMERSTON's such choice epithets as "shabby," "mean," "unworthy," *et cetera*, have been very freely applied; while, at the same time, it is admitted that the Premier bestowed upon Mr. HAYDN the sum of one hundred pounds out of his own pocket. Really, all this seems most uncalled for, and we should very much like to know what these very persons, who condemn so loudly the liberality of the Premier, have done to assist Mr. HAYDN. The Premier has but a very small sum of public money at his disposal for the relief of literary men who have made no provision for their old age; and if every person of that description, with higher claims than Mr. HAYDN, were to be admitted, the five-and-twenty pounds would very soon dwindle down to as many shillings. If the public is prepared to set aside a large sum of money for the relief of such cases, by all means let it be done; but many sensible persons (especially among those who most respect the dignity of the literary craft) question the expediency of thus offering, as it were, a premium to improvidence. When misfortune comes upon a man unawares, there are seldom wanting those who, when the facts of the case have been properly communicated to them, have both the power and the will to step in and aid; but it is worthy of consideration whether the existence of a charitable fund for the relief of literary men is not a perpetuation of that extravagant doctrine which supposes them to be inspired idiots, incapable of living as other men do, far less of making any provision for the future. In former days, when the pay for literary work was so scanty that an author had really to depend upon posterity for his reward, there might have been some excuse for a system which permitted JOHNSON to dine behind his booksellers' screen without shame, and ERASMUS to beg, as it were, his bread from his patrons. But if literature is now a profession, it should be self-supporting, and its members should learn that they cannot be absolved from the duty of providing for themselves. We dare say all this will seem to certain persons very harsh and perhaps very vulgar; but we have some consolation in knowing that these opinions are gaining ground among the leading members of the literary profession. The experiment of the Guild of Literature was a proof of this, and also the Athenæum Institute; both formed upon admirable principles, excepting where they admitted the eleemosynary element. To revert, however, to Mr. HAYDN, we would observe that the *Dictionary of Dates* and the *Book of Dignities*, useful as they may be, are neither of them works displaying any very high order of genius or even of recondite scholarship. They are simply compilations, and not very remarkable compilations, either as regards their extent or their completeness. They are not even works of great public utility. The *Dictionary of Dates* is chiefly valued by those journalists who depend upon it for their displays of historical research, just as they are indebted to the *Anatomy of Melancholy* and the *Dictionary of Quotations* for their scholarship. A testimonial from these persons to Mr. HAYDN would be only a just discharge of a debt of gratitude, for they owe him much; but what the public has got to do with the matter we are at a loss to imagine.

Pertinent to the question of making charitable allowances to literary men comes the new scheme for dealing with ALLEYNE's Charity at Dulwich. It has long been notorious that the funds of this Charity (commonly known as "God's Gift") have been mal-appropriated in the usual way; that is, for the benefit of the masters, wardens, and any other persons beside the proper objects indicated by the donor. Indeed, but for the excellent collection of paintings bequeathed by Sir

F. BOURGEOIS, the fact that there was any charity at all connected with the matter would probably have faded altogether from the public mind, and have been kept very snugly and quietly among the dividers of the spoil. The Court of Chancery, however, does a good thing once in a way, and has stepped in to compel the trustees to administer their trust somewhat more equitably. It is true that the scheme approved of by the Court allows the master an income exceeding in amount the entire income of the estate at the time of ALLEYNE'S death, and that the Fellows and Wardens will divide nearly three thousand pounds per annum between them; but the educational portion of the college is to be greatly enlarged, schoolmasters are to be provided, a chapel is to be built, and exhibitions are to be founded for the purpose of sending boys to the Universities. The school will be available to the children of persons inhabiting any of the four parishes of St. Botolph Without; St. Luke's, Middlesex; St. Saviour's, Southwark; and St. Giles's, Camberwell. Mr. BENJAMIN WEBSTER has suggested that, as EDWARD ALLEYNE was an actor, a portion of the funds should be devoted to the assistance of old and decayed persons of the theatrical profession; forgetting that when ALLEYNE devoted his fortune to charitable purposes he had taken his late profession in abhorrence, and intended his will to serve as a sort of atonement for what he considered his very sinful life.

We have seen all the new periodicals which have been born this year; but (perhaps with the single exception of the *Train*) we cannot say that any of them exhibits symptoms of permanent success. The "rod pickled in classic brine" by the promoters of the *Idler* will not act the part of Aaron's rod, by swallowing up those of the other magicians; and we are not quite sure whether it might not be profitably applied to the backs of some of the contributors. With the exception of an article from Mr. HANNAY'S pen, the contents are rapid and intensely amateurish. It seems an extraordinary contradiction that the promise to establish a new order of things should be performed by reproducing Toryism in its worst

forms—offensive pride of pedigree, and a still more offensive pride of education. We really do not know what may be the exact amount of scholastic attainments possessed by the contributors; but the application of such words as *cads* and *plebs* (the merest undergraduate slang) strikes us as being both vulgar and silly. The *Train* bids fair to perform a long journey without coming to a smash. Two capital tales are opened by Messrs. ROBERT and WILLIAM BROUGH. The former has also an exquisite little poem founded on one of BOCCACCIO'S tales. These, with a good paper on WILKES by Mr. DRAPER, and "The Parisian Nights' Entertainments" by Mr. SALA, are the most noticeable features in the first number. The illustrations are spirited and clever. Another new review is *The Monthly Review of Literature, Science, and Art*, which the *Athenaeum* claims as an imitation of itself. There are, however, some very important points of difference. The *Monthly Review* is written with no less learning than modesty; its contributors are evidently both gentlemen and scholars; it attacks nobody and informs all.

The *Political Economist*, judging from the first number, has been instituted for no other purpose than to revive the once celebrated, now exploded, and always anti-matrimonial doctrines of Mr. MALTHUS. It is hard to find the spirit of this defunct philosophy once more abroad, when we supposed it to have been exorcised long ago. We believe Mr. MALTHUS to have been a sincere though a mistaken man, with more than enough of conscience and sense of decency to have shuddered at the consequences of his filthy and ungodly doctrine, could he have foreseen them. But these followers of his appear to have no shame; they delight in crushing all the poetry of life beneath the wheels of their dreadful idol; and, like the writer of the periodical before us, they regard the worst vices as blessings to mankind, in so far as they check the increase of population.

We have occasionally amused our readers with a few of the curiosities of advertising culled from the columns of the *Times*. Here is a very rich specimen.

PUBLIC LIFE.—Any Gentleman, whose ambition leads him to public life, and prompts him to soar above the mediocrity which characterises modern representation, can have his ambition directed by one who is qualified by education and parliamentary experience.—Apply to "M.A.," &c.

We have heard of masters in every art, and we know that the French class the *savoir vivre* as one of the most important of the arts; but the notion of *teaching public life* certainly strikes us as novel.

Here is another curiosity:

DECLINE of the BRITISH DRAMA.

—"Scraps" on the Art of Poetry, who published his poems two years ago, with high success, in the *London-derry Sentinel*, and who was afterwards compared by the *Athenaeum* journal equal to one of the Dryden school, in order to aid the British stage, has now for the perusal of managers a TRAGEDY, in three acts, entitled "Marcus Brutus," faithfully delineated, without plagiarism. Address "Scraps," &c.

We cannot tell positively who "Scraps" may be; but those who are familiar with poets of the day will be tempted to exclaim, "*Aut Cornelius aut nullus.*"

We have been requested to announce that Mrs. S. C. HALL is now re-editing her uncollected tales for publication in BROOKS'S "Amusing Library." The collection will include many of her characteristic sketches of Irish life.

All London is running in crowds to get a peep at Mr. WILLIAM RUSSELL, the Crimean correspondent of the *Times*, now in town upon furlough. His photographed portrait created an immense sensation; and Mr. FENTON sold an enormous number of copies. Now, however, folks have got the great original to stare at. Never was a man so lionised and fêted. Great men have even returned to town to give him a feast. Among other projects, we hear of a dinner to be given him by the Garrick Club, of which he is a member; and there is some talk of organising an entertainment, to be given by the members of the press to one who has so well sustained the credit of the craft. If this notion is worked out, we hope that the names of Mr. WOODS, of the *Morning Herald*, and of Mr. MACDONALD, of the *Times*' Charitable Fund, will be associated with that of Mr. RUSSELL. L.

ENGLISH LITERATURE.

EDUCATION.

A NATIONAL ACADEMY.

BESOTTED or bewildered by the old battle-cries of party warfare, the people of England are slow in rising to, or in appreciating in all its vastness, that idea of national unity which must henceforth be the guide of English statesmanship—the inspiration of English development. Whig and Tory, Liberal and Conservative, have ceased to have any meaning for the heroic and patriotic souls amongst us. If a man is an earnest and enlightened reformer, and loves his country, he can neither be Whig, Tory, Liberal, nor Conservative. He has a comprehensiveness, an elevation, and a catholicity which reject factious names and factious divisions. Of course, the dawdlers who lounge into every camp by turns we have no sympathy with: better the fiercest bigotry than dilettanteism of that kind. Sectarian acrimony, whether political or theological, may be bad; but an epicurean indifference is infinitely worse; though it is not unusual for this epicurean indifference, as opposed to sectarian acrimony, to parade and to boast itself a virtue. Far away from the snarl of the sectaries and the smirk of the indifferents, there is call enough and field enough for the darings and doings of noble hearts. One grand way in which these could expend their enthusiasm and their strength is by demanding and helping to create a National Academy, after having demanded and helped to create a National University. First in its relations to national literature should a National Academy be viewed. English literature, as compared with other literatures, has immense vitality; but vitality by itself is destructive, volcanic, chaotic, unless you teach it to flow into beautiful forms. This teaching could not come from an Academy alone; but an Academy could be a powerful agent therein. By going back continually to the fountains and foun-

dations of the English language; by analysing its structure; by giving its history; by exalting into prominence those of its elements which have most of affinity with the national soil and the national character; by encouraging a healthy criticism; by picturing the influences out of which each great author grew, and the effect which his advent has had on all subsequent ages; by bringing to light forgotten or neglected treasures; by scourging sternly down all barbarisms of speech which even genius should not be allowed to indulge in, and which genius can neither justify nor consecrate; by these and the like efforts an Academy could not erect, but it could help to perfect, the standard of national taste. While unsparing to pretentiousness, sciolism, and vulgarity, it would have many a generous word, many a wise hint, for struggling talent. It would repress and reprove on the one hand only to embolden on the other. It would be stern as an executioner, but munificent as a god. It would never criticise but in order to enrich and to invigorate the national mind. Two nuisances would it sweep away without mercy—facile writing and frivolous writing. These meet us everywhere in these days. The most idiotic of the human race, if he can pour forth words by the bushel, thinks he has a right to solicit our attention; and if we are nevertheless inattentive, he tries to vary his utterances with the antics of the buffoon. The rule for scribblers seems to be—write as fast as you can; if that does not succeed, write as funnily as you can. Literature as a sinewy labour and a divine dignity, let the National Academy vindicate. What foremost excellence has ever been bought but by excessive and enormous toil? And how can the universe be a solemn verity, and yet literature, one of its fullest, most fecund expressions, be only a farce composed of grunt and of silliest giggle? We have had rather too much of this. The more of genius the more of toil—the more of genius, the more should its toil and the product of its toil be worship. Nature

from the opulence of her joy laughs, and the heart of man responds to the laughter. But nature, being no merry-andrew herself, cannot smile on, cannot applaud humanity or a nation when playing the merry-andrew. No work of simple literary art should be directly or intentionally utilitarian; but, however light in texture or in object, it should have at least some links connecting it with the realities and mysteries of creation. Assuredly some stern prophetic voice, in a whirlwind of wrath, may herein accomplish far more than the most strenuous endeavours of an Academy. But each agency to its vocation, counting on itself solely, yet ready to receive aid and ready to co-operate. Literature would cease to be literature if it always laboured with prophetic purpose. Still the prophet will be grateful to literature as the pioneer of his achievements. By doing its best and its utmost to refine and fecundate the national literature, a National Academy will of course be both directly and indirectly promoting the national culture. But it should, moreover, make this a special employment. It is a notion as foolish as fatal, that national culture can be aided by superficialising and popularising science. Except in its practical results, or in its synthetic or poetic presentments, the people should be kept as far away from science as possible. The life of the people is faith; and only to the extent that science harmonises with faith should it be unfolded to them. Whereto a National Academy could most fruitfully influence national culture would be by the most vivid and various illustration of all the arts that can ally themselves with literature and religion. Divorced from artistic and from devotional potencies, literature may be just as unsalutary to the people as science. The National Academy could panoply it, as with historical and biographical, so also with artistic and religious significance. Literature, exactly like science, has a tendency to conquer for itself an empire apart; and this tendency it has been

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enabled chiefly to indulge through the immense and incessant efforts of the periodical press. What, however, is wanted in national culture is a brotherhood of all the forces that can operate on a nation's being. But herein the precaution should invariably be observed that man is never to be considered as a simple intelligence, as a recipient of doctrine, as a rationalistic animal; and that therefore the old distinction between the esoteric and the exoteric should never be broken down as regards the mass of the community. Much that is erudite must be withheld from them, unless they are to be misled and scholarship degraded: much that is profound must come before them veiled and hallowed by symbol; sculpture, painting and architecture, religious ritual, and festivals in which the fatherland and religion blend, must be the teachers of what remaineth. The two things with most of national affinity with these are epic and lyrical song. It is the misfortune of England not to possess any great national epics, any *Iliads* or *Odysseys*, though the historical plays of Shakspeare and some of Scott's historical romances are noble substitutes; but the lyrical poetry of England, if we include therein that of Ireland and Scotland, is exceedingly rich. And if the war proceeds we may expect more than one genius to arise with a pith and a pathos worthy of Campbell and of Burns. To suppose that a National Academy is to be a mere mouldy gang of pedants and grammarians is absurd. We allot it the highest poetical vocation. It cannot make poets, but it can cultivate and nourish poetical feelings in the multitude by passing continually from the temple of the external arts, through lyrical music and lyrical poetry, into the realms of literature properly so called. It would also be a function of a National Academy to be continually elevating the views, enlarging the domain, perfecting the discipline and the organisation, of a National University and of other educational institutions under the control of the State. That the National Academy might have the closest connection with the National University, the buildings and grounds of the former should be in immediate proximity to those of the latter. Besides public halls for assembling in, for lectures, for ceremonies, as for example the crowning before admiring thousands of a mighty poet—besides gardens delicious as those in which Athenian philosophers rambled—there should be a house for each member, itself, like all the other buildings, a specimen of consummate and most suggestive art. The Academy should consist of a hundred members, with a president, secretary, and other officers to be elected by themselves. To each member an ample income should be given, so that he may be able to devote himself unanxious and undisturbed to the particular study for which nature and taste fit him. The lighter kinds of literature are generously enough paid in England, as a Thackeray and a Dickens can testify. But for the more serious kinds there is no provision, no encouragement, except in connection with the Anglican Universities, which are substantially ecclesiastical corporations, and therefore make access to their most illustrious honours, their most abiding and abounding wealth, and their most attractive advantages, conditional on a theological subserviency which a divinely-gifted soul can never be honestly in the mood to pay. Now one immense recommendation of a National Academy is that it would permit such a soul to consecrate its whole powers to a special department of literature for that department's sake; and we should thus have the most accomplished and catholic scholarship, and immortal works, such as Gibbon's *History*, which now can seldom be produced for want of leisure, freedom, wealth, and a host of concurring circumstances. It is unnecessary to say that none should be elected to the Academy who had not displayed learning or talent of the first order. Great poets, great philosophers, great historians, would form the chief class. The crawling sycophants that prostitute their pages in praise of Lord John Russell as a statesman, or of aught that he the pigmy and pedant has ever done; the small critics who think that Sheridan Knowles or any other modern poet has aught of Shakspeare; the applauders of England's pseudo-mystical or America's rhetorical bards—these and their like would be thrust back with disdain and disgust from the glorious but awful gates of the National Academy.

ATTICUS.

The Heroes: or, Greek Fairy Tales. By the Rev. C. KINGSLEY. Cambridge: Macmillan and Co. 1856.

A CHRISTMAS-GIFT from the Rev. C. Kingsley to his three children, Rose, Maurice, and Mary, and a most welcome present to all other little readers, be their names what they may. To subject this little trifle to the same criticism which would be applicable to the more laboured productions of Mr. Kingsley's pen would be absurd; we must take it simply for what it is intended to be—a light, graceful, sketchlike copy of some of the best known tales in the Greek mythology.

Mr. Kingsley loves the Greeks, or Hellenes, as he prefers to call them, for you may see (he declares), every day, "things which we should not have had if it had not been for those old Greeks. You can hardly find a well-written book which has not in it Greek names, and words, and proverbs; you cannot walk through a great town without passing Greek buildings; you cannot go into a well-furnished room without seeing Greek statues and ornaments, even Greek patterns of furniture and paper; so strangely have these old Greeks left their mark behind them, upon this modern world in which we now live." Therefore, adds Mr. Kingsley, "I love these old Hellenes heartily; and I should be very ungrateful to them if I did not, considering all that they have taught me; and they seem to me like brothers, though they have all been dead and gone many a hundred years ago." Nor does Mr. Kingsley consider that his duty as a Christian compels him to underrate the position of this nation in the eye of the Father of Mercies.

You must not fancy, children, that, because these old Greeks were heathens, therefore God did not care for them and taught them nothing. The Bible tells us that it was not so, but that God's mercy is over all his works, and that he understands the hearts of all people and fashions all their works. And St. Paul told these old Greeks in aftertimes, when they had grown wicked and fallen low, that they ought to have known better, because they were God's offspring, as their own poets had said, and that the good God had put them where they were to seek the Lord, and feel after him, and find him, though he was not far from any of them. And Clement of Alexandria, a great Father of the Church, who was as wise as he was good, said that God had sent down Philosophy to the Greeks from Heaven as he sent down the Gospel to the Jews.

The stories selected by Mr. Kingsley for illustration are those of Perseus, the Argonauts, and Theseus. Of the manner in which the dry bones of Lemprière are vivified into lively dramas the following extracts will serve to exemplify. Here is the fight between Perseus and the monster:—

On came the great sea-monster, coasting along like a huge black galley, lazily breasting the ripple, and stopping at times by creek or headland to watch for the laughter of girls at their bleaching, or cattle pawing on the sand-hills, or boys bathing on the beach. His great sides were fringed with clustering shells and sea-weeds, and the water guggled in and out of his wide jaws as he rolled along, dripping and glittering in the beams of the morning sun. At last he saw Andromeda, and shot forward to take his prey, while the waves foamed white behind him, and before him the fish fled leaping. Then down from the height of the air fell Perseus, like a shooting star, down to the crests of the waves, while Andromeda hid her face as he shouted, and then there was silence for a while. At last she looked up trembling, and saw Perseus springing toward her, and instead of the monster, a long black rock, with the sea rippling quietly round it. Who then so proud as Perseus, as he leapt back to the rock and lifted his fair Andromeda in his arms, and flew with her to the cliff-top, as a falcon carries a dove?

The next extract is an episode in the voyage of Orpheus and Medea. They are passing the dreaded cave of Scylla.

Then out of the depths came Thetis, Peleus's silver-footed bride, for love of her gallant husband, and all her nymphs around her; and they played like snow-white dolphins, diving on from wave to wave, before the ship, and in her wake, and beside her, as dolphins play. And they caught the ship, and guided her, and passed her on from hand to hand, and tossed her through the billows, as maidens toss the ball. And when Scylla stooped to seize her, they struck back her ravishing hands, and foul Scylla whined, as a whelp whines, at the touch of their gentle hands. But she shrunk into her cave affrighted; for all bad things shrink from good; and Argo leapt safe past her, while a fair breeze rose behind. Then Thetis and her nymphs sank down to their coral caves beneath the sea, and their gardens of green and purple, where live flowers bloom all the year round; while the heroes went on rejoicing, yet dreading what might come next.

The fight between Theseus and the Minotaur forms the subject of the last extract.

His body was a man's; but his head was the head of a bull, and his teeth were the teeth of a lion; and with them he tore his prey. And when he saw Theseus he roared, and put his head down, and rushed right at him. But Theseus stepped aside nimbly, and as he passed by, cut him in the knee; and ere he could turn in the narrow path, he followed him and stabbed him again and again from behind, till the monster fled, bellowing wildly; for he never before had felt a wound. And Theseus followed him at full speed, holding the clew of thread in his left hand. Then on, through cavern after cavern, under dark ribs of sounding stone, and up rough glens and torrent beds, among the sunless roots of Ida, and to the edge of the eternal snow, went they, the hunter and the hunted, while the hills bellowed to the monster's bellow. And at last Theseus came up with him, where he lay panting on a slab among the snow, and caught him by the horns, and forced his head back, and drove the keen sword through his throat. Then he turned, and went back limping and weary, feeling his way down by the clew of thread, till he came to the mouth of that doleful place; and saw waiting for him, whom but Ariadne!

This manner of treating the old Greek fables is both new and pleasing, and the volume before us entitles Mr. Kingsley to the thanks of children, as his more mature works have won for him the admiration of older readers.

Pronunciation of Greek and Latin. By JAMES A. DAVIES. London: Bell and Daldy.

THREE centuries or more ago the question of the correct pronunciation of the languages of Greece and Rome was one which stirred the whole learned world. Furious were these controversies, in which entire universities were pitted against each other, and the excitement which now only attends political contests was carried into the domain of literature. Latin was then a common medium of communication between the learned of all countries, and the question was not without practical importance. Latterly, the learned of each nation have been content to apply to the alphabets of Greece and Rome the pronunciation of their own language, on the ground that, the true pronunciation being hopelessly lost, it is futile to attempt even to approximate to correctness. So says the learned Zumpt, who in his *Latin Grammar* dismisses the question of pronunciation in half a dozen lines. We cannot, however, enter into the force of this argument. Our own language deviates so much from the common standard of European pronunciation in several of the most important letters, that an English scholar finds himself perfectly isolated when in the company of continental literati, whether German, French, or Italian; and, seeing how much pains is still bestowed in our public schools upon the acquisition of Latin, to the neglect of modern languages, we do not see why the system should not be carried one step further, so as to prepare the scholar to turn his Latin to account when he finds himself thrown among the learned of other nations. We are convinced also that a nearer approach to the pronunciation of Cicero and Demosthenes than that now attempted, although necessarily hypothetical, would contribute to a fuller appreciation of the beauties of these great orators. Pronunciation is a clue to character; the morals and manners of society may be guessed by its treatment of vowels and consonants. The cold reserve of the English character, for instance, has banished almost entirely the sound of the noble vowel *a* (ah)—and instituted the suppressed unimpassioned *e* (ay), in its place. We become conscious of the loss when we hear an Italian speak. With him the letter *a* is an instrument of the most varied and profound expression. How frigid must a speech of Cicero as enounced by the lips of an Englishman appear to an Italian.

The object of Mr. Davies's little pamphlet is to call attention to this subject, and he urges the necessity of a reform in our school-pronunciation, with arguments of considerable force. As to several of the letters, no doubt or difficulty exists. No one supposes that Cicero or Demosthenes pronounced the letter *a* as (with few exceptions) it is pronounced in modern English. Why not, therefore, correct our pronunciation at least to this extent? With regard, however, to certain of the letters, the learned are not agreed, nor are, perhaps, likely ever to be quite unanimous; and, moreover, in some cases (as in that of the letter *c*, for instance, before *e* or *i*), the continental nations, German, French, and Italian, are as far from correctness as we are ourselves. Mr. Davies discusses

the probable values of the various doubtful letters in both Greek and Latin alphabets concisely, but with abundance of erudition; and his tract forms a useful summary of the remarks which the ancients have left us upon the subject. Attempts have been recently made by isolated scholars to promote an improved pronunciation of Greek, through the medium of a more correct system of spelling; but such is the instinctive conservatism of English character, that innovations of this kind are looked upon with a certain distrust and distaste. For ourselves, we are of opinion that the knowledge and recognition of any truth or fact, however apparently insignificant, is never without some advantage; and consequently we believe that something would be gained by improved correctness of pronunciation—partly perhaps a clearer insight into the etymologies and relations of words, which under the present system are frequently strangely disguised; and partly a keener appreciation of the sonority and effect of the periods of the ancient orators. We therefore commend Mr. Davies's brochure to the notice of those whose province it is to indoctrinate the youth of the realm with classic lore, and we wish every success to his labours in this neglected field.

The Home School; or, Hints on Home Education. By the Rev. NORMAN MACLEOD. Edinburgh: Paton and Ritchie. London: Hamilton, Adams, and Co. Co. 1856.

"WHAT people call truisms and commonplaces are often those very truths about common things which we require most often to be reminded of, lest, while gazing on some brilliant meteor in the distant sky, we may stumble in our path, or fall into a ditch at our feet." This sentence, taken from Mr. Macleod's preface, cannot be too well understood, or too often recalled to mind by those whose business it is to tend the intellectual growth of the rising generation. The study of abstruse doctrines and the higher regions of natural philosophy may be more flattering to self-love; but until the mind is thoroughly planted with the fruitful truths of simple knowledge, such pursuits are not only unprofitable, but pernicious; for, while barren in result, they beget self-conceit. Mr. Macleod's "Hints" have a tendency not dissimilar to the sermon by Mr. Caird so lately approved of by the Queen. They seek to infuse religion into the duties of every day, into the ordinary intercourse of the fireside, the workshop, and the counting-house. The volume forms a most welcome addition to the domestic library, and will be a valuable gift to the young, especially those who are likely to become the heads of families.

The Elements of French Grammar: adapted to Oral Instruction. By C. J. BURY. London: Jarrold and Sons.

IN this excellent little grammar the author has avoided the introduction of extraneous matter, confining himself to a clear and simple description of each part of speech. The verbs, in the first place, are simply conjugated, and the compound tenses so arranged as to be learnt separately, or combined with the simple tenses, as the tutor may deem fit. For the use of young pupils Mr. Bury's grammar is highly to be recommended.

Chambers's Educational Course: History of Ancient Greece. London: W. and R. Chambers.

THIS little work is less a dissertation on the history of Greece than the history itself: it treats of facts, chiefly taken from Grote, without the political bias which characterises his work. It is admirably adapted for the young historical student, and should be found in every schoolroom.

The Geological Staircase. By Professor DONALDSON. London: James Cornish.

AN interesting and highly instructive work, containing sixty-six well-executed chromo-lithographic engravings by Turner, taken from specimens in the British and Geological Museums. The language employed by the author is simple, and free from those technicalities which are derived from foreign languages. The system, as the title denotes, is progressive. The contents can be taught as a natural science, and also as a practical art.

A Greek Grammar for the Use of Schools and Colleges. By W. D. GEDDES, A.M. Edinburgh: Sutherland and Knox.

THE author states his aim in this volume to have been to "combine the clearness and conciseness of the older Greek Grammars with the accuracy and fullness of more recent ones." He has succeeded in his aim. It is written in English. The rules are clearly and explicitly stated, and the examples are selected with care. We have no hesitation in pronouncing this to be the most practical Greek Grammar that has come under our notice.

Our Children's Times. London: Charles Haselden. CHILDREN have been made to read the history of times past, while to the majority of them that of the present is treated as a thing above their comprehensions. This should not be; and the little work before us, containing pleasing sketches of the leading events of the present century, is well calculated to enlighten our little ones as to what has transpired from within the memory of their parents to the events of the day. Every child under twelve years of age should be presented with a copy.

The Theory and Practice of Notes of Lessons. By JOHN JONES. Second Edition enlarged. London: Simpkin and Co.

THIS is designed to teach teachers, by telling them what to teach and how to teach it. The author was of opinion that this might be better done by a pre-arranged set of notes than by the suggestions of the moment; and he proposes a scheme for such notes on various branches of learning, designed to keep in the memory the matters of most importance. That it has been found in practice as useful as it promises to be, we gather from the fact that this is a second edition of the work.

A Help to Latin Grammar. By JOSIAH WRIGHT. Cambridge: Macmillan.

MR. WRIGHT has really succeeded in simplifying Latin Grammar, so as to make it much more intelligible to beginners than any similar work we have seen. He describes in simple language, first, the form of words, then the use of words. He does not put his teachings into dry, curt, abstract propositions, which no young mind can understand; but he explains the meaning of that which he desires to teach, just as a sensible master would make it familiar to a pupil. A series of progressive exercises at once tests and confirms the learner's knowledge; and these, too, are on the same judicious plan. Unlike most school-books, this is written by one who really understands the youthful mind.

Catechism of Practical Agriculture. By HENRY STEPHENS. London: Blackwood and Co.

ALTHOUGH not strictly an educational book, it may fairly be included in the category, for every boy ought to learn something of the science as well as the art of Agriculture; and to those who are to be owners or cultivators of the land, such knowledge is indispensable. They could not resort to a better teacher than the little catechism before us, which conveys a vast amount of information in a most intelligible form. We should like to see it introduced into every school.

Orr's Circle of the Sciences: Organic Nature, Vol. III. Geology, Crystallography, and Mineralogy. London: Houlston and Stoneman.

THIS work is a miracle of cheapness. Here we have Botany treated by Dr. Edward Smith, Zoology by Mr. Dallas, Geology by Professor Ansted, Mineralogy by Professor Tennant, and Crystallography by the Rev. W. Mitchell, in two large closely-printed volumes, illustrated with many hundred excellent woodcuts, and all for 11s. What school, nay, what house, would be without these manuals of modern science, in which all that philosophers have discovered, up to the present day, is described, so that the unlearned can understand and learn? We had feared that the enterprise was too cheap to be profitable, for worth was not sacrificed to cheapness in this instance. We are glad to see by the appearance of these new volumes that it is so successful, and that we are likely to see the completion of so admirable a design.

The Scholar's Help to Classical Letter-Writing. London: Ralph.

THIS work has a twofold object. It presents a careful selection from the best styles of letter-writing in our language as copies for the pupil, thus teaching him style, filling his thoughts, and familiarising him with the best language, while learning the art of writing. It is an excellent idea admirably executed.

The Practical Stenographer. By DAVID HAMMOND. London: Partridge and Co.

A SYSTEM of shorthand designed to be applicable, not merely to reporting, but to the common uses of life—as for taking memoranda, abbreviating communications, &c. Shorthand should be learned by everybody, and by both sexes; and to both it is of daily use. Learners will find this as good a system as any.

Lyra Hellenica; or, Translations from Modern British Poets into Greek Iambic Verse. By E. R. HUMPHREYS, LL.D. Second Edition, much enlarged. Oxford: William Baxter.

THIS may be taken as a companion to the foregoing; indeed it is, in some respects, a key to the "Exercitationes Iambicæ." The author declares that in rendering the selected specimens of the British poets into Iambic verse, he has aimed less at literal exactness, than at a correct imitation of the style and language of the Greek tragedians. The volume is an elegant specimen of typography.

Exercitationes Iambicæ; or, Progressive Exercises in Greek Iambic Verse. By E. R. HUMPHREYS, LL.D. Cambridge: Macmillan and Co.

AN excellent manual of the rules for Iambic composition, with an explanation of the leading principles of Greek prosody. Mr. H. M. Jeffery, the Second Master of Cheltenham Grammar School, has supplied sixty short introductory exercises, chiefly selected from well-known poets.

Æneidos Lib. VII. - XII. et Georgica. London: Chambers.

THIS new volume of Chambers's Educational Course contains six books of the Æneid and the Georgica, with explanatory notes in English. It is well adapted for schools; and especially in this, that the cost of a part of a book only is incurred—schoolboys usually destroying one half of a great volume while learning the other.

Manual of Greek and Latin Prose Composition, specially designed to illustrate the differences of idiom between those languages and the English. By E. R. HUMPHREYS, LL.D. Oxford: John Henry and James Parker. 1855.

DR. HUMPHREYS, the Head Master of Cheltenham Grammar School, has here performed a very useful task. The main object of the exercises is, as the title-page states, to illustrate some of the more important and peculiar idioms of the Greek and Latin languages, as distinguished from our own. There is an introductory chapter upon the classic idioms.

MR. HUGHES, the accomplished Head-master of the Lower Naval School at Greenwich, has issued a first and a second book of his advanced *Reading Lessons* (Longmans). They well deserve the attention of parents and teachers.

BIOGRAPHY.

My Bondage and my Freedom.—1. Life as a Slave. 2. Life as a Freeman. By FREDERICK DOUGLASS. With an Introduction by Dr. JAMES McCUNE SMITH. New York and Auburn: Miller and Co. London: Trübner and Co. 1855.

SOME of our readers may remember Frederick Douglass lecturing upon slavery about ten years ago in London and several of our provincial cities, and those who heard the fervid eloquence of that "man of colour" and witnessed the ease and propriety of his demeanour were led to doubt the fact of his having ever been a slave himself. Others may remember the circumstance of a coloured gentleman having paid for a first-class berth on board a steamer for America from Liverpool, who, upon repairing on board, found his berth preoccupied, and directions given for his own exclusion from the saloon. The proprietors accepted the coloured gentleman's money without scruple; but would not offend their American customers by returning him money's worth for his forty odd pounds. The circumstance excited much newspaper comment at the time, and led, we understand, to more honest arrangements on the part of the Liverpool steam-packet proprietors.

The coloured gentleman in question was Frederick Douglass, whose life is here before us, and we will say at once that no narrative we ever read impressed us more deeply with a conviction of truthfulness than this autobiography of one who has in his own person experienced the bitterness of slavery as it still exists in the United States.

It is not our intention to follow the autobiographer through his narrative by a regular synopsis of his eventful history; but we strongly recommend its entire perusal to all those who are curious to trace the progress and development of the human mind under adverse circumstances. We expect that readers of a less inquiring and laborious class than those above alluded to, who will bestow a large amount of pains upon the acquisition of a single new fact, would turn away with a yawn from any full statement of a case of the kind, now that the "Uncle Tom" *fièvre* has passed away. The Editor, Dr. Smith, all enthusiastic in his admiration of Douglass as he is, appears fully aware of the satiated feeling to be anticipated on the part of the public, and seeks to propitiate thoughtful readers by inviting their attention, "not to a work of art, but to a work of facts—facts terrible and almost incredible—yet facts nevertheless. 'I am authorised to say,' continues Dr. Smith, 'that there is not a fictitious name nor place in the whole volume; but that names and places are literally given, and that every transaction therein described actually transpired.'"

Heartily, most heartily, do we wish that Frederick Douglass's narrative of facts may have a salutary effect upon the slave-holding states of America, but we despair of any amount of facts having influence with men who will not be convinced; and who, so far from being instructed by their ministers of religion or their distinguished legal functionaries, are actually kept in countenance by those venerable personages who, themselves contaminated by contact with crime, have corrupted the fountains of both law and religion. Bishops, presbyteries, synods, conferences have severally and collectively turned aside from the Christian path and quaffed of the cup of abomination. Episcopals, Presbyterians, Independents, Methodists, commenced their several careers in America with a deliberate condemnation of slavery, and a distinct injunction upon their communities to hold aloof from its contamination; but, horrible to record, all these diverse denominations have proceeded from concession to concession, from compromise to compromise, from palliation to palliation, until they have at last embraced the sorceress from whom they once turned with loathing. We are not dealing in vague declamation, while we write thus, for we could verify each sentence by reference to records; we refer, however, those of our readers who doubt our entire accuracy and desire more detailed information than we have space to communicate, to the pages of Mrs. Stowe's "Key to Uncle Tom's Cabin," a marvellous collection of facts and incontrovertible evidences. We will take this fair opportunity of observing that the "Key to Uncle Tom's Cabin" is a volume of much more worth than its name ordinarily implies. We have keys to "Vivian Grey," to "Coningsby," and to fashionable and political novels of every guise and grade wherein gossips and quid-nuncs can read what is the real name and position of the Marquis of M. or Lady Edith, of Tadpole, or Malagrida; but Mrs. Stowe's volume takes a higher and a broader flight, and, leaving the pages of Uncle Tom far behind or below discloses a mass of facts illustrative of slavery in the United States, which may satisfy a very cormorant for statistics, and can defy refutation.

So long as Americans persist in calling their slavery an institution of their country, lawful in itself but liable to abuse—so long as they only note with reprobation the excesses of owners—so long will this hideous blot deform the banner of the stripes and stars. The Americans are fond of the phrase "Go-ahead," they not seldom boast of cutting right slick through creation. Let them thus deal with slavery, tear it up by the roots, and they may be the greatest people upon earth; but, unless they make short work with this canker-worm, which is preying upon the root of their national grandeur, unless they pluck it out and cast it from them, their grandeur will assuredly wither away. Nervous ladies at New Orleans, and timid gentlemen in Alabama, interdict the mooted of such topics—the mere hint at such possibilities. But what says a countryman of their own, the cool, collected, sagacious Thomas Jefferson, with reference to a possible conflict between the slaves and the slave-holders? "God has no attribute that could take side with the oppressor in such a conflict. I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just, and that his justice cannot sleep for ever." Portentous words from a patriot senator's lips. But let Americans now listen to a greater portent still, and one which ought to strike terror into their hearts, namely, the deep voice of one of their own chattels. When the augur announced, *Bos locutus est*, the hard Romans hurried to their prayers. Will Americans be less moved when they hear *Rem loquentem*, a piece of their own household property talking? "The stone shall cry out of the wall, and the beam out of the timber shall answer it," exclaimed an inspired prophet, when he wished most forcibly to intimate to his unrighteous countrymen that a fabric, whose stones and beams were shaken with the strong cries of innocent blood, and stained by the oppression of the builder, could no longer be a safe or pleasant habitation to dwell in. But let us hear the bondman, Frederick Douglass, tell his own story, the bound thing the American law pronounces him:—

I was born and spent the first years of my childhood (writes F. Douglass) in a famine-stricken district, named Tuckahoe, on the Eastern shore of Maryland—a dull, flat, and unthrifty district, surrounded by a white population of the lowest order, indolent, and drunken to a proverb. In regard to the

time of my birth I cannot (he continues) be as definite as I have been respecting the place. Nor, indeed, can I impart much knowledge concerning my birth. Genealogical trees do not flourish among slaves. The word *father* is literally abolished in slave law and slave practice. I never met with a slave who could tell me how old he was. Few slave mothers know anything of the months of the year or the days of month. They keep no family records with marriages, births, and deaths. They measure the ages of their children by spring-time, winter-time, harvest-time, planting-time, and the like; but these soon become undistinguishable and forgotten. Like other slaves, I cannot tell how old I am. This destitution was among my earliest troubles. I learned when I grew up that my master—and this is the case with masters generally—allowed no questions to be asked by which a slave might learn his age. Such questions are deemed evidence of impatience, and even of impudent curiosity. From certain events, however, the dates of which I have since learned, I suppose myself to have been born about the year 1817. The first experience of life with me that I now remember began in the family of my grandmother and grandfather. Their dwelling had few pretensions. It was a log-hut or cabin, built of clay, wood, and straw. In this little hut there was a large family of children, not my grandmother's own, but her grandchildren, the children of her daughters. I say nothing of *father*, for he is shrouded in a mystery I have never been able to penetrate. Slavery does away with fathers as it does with families. When they do exist, they are not the outgrowths of slavery, but are antagonistic to that system. The order of civilization is reversed here. The name of the child is not expected to be that of its father, and his condition does not affect that of the child. He may be the slave of Mr. Tilgman, and his child when born may be the slave of Mr. Gross. He may be a freeman; and yet his child may be a chattel. My father was a white man or nearly white. It was sometimes whispered that my master was my father. My knowledge of my mother is very scanty, but very distinct. She was tall, and finely proportioned; of deep black glossy complexion, had regular features, and, among the other slaves, was remarkably sedate in manners. There is, in "Pritchard's Natural History of Man," the head of a figure in page 157—the features of which so much resemble those of my mother that I often recur to it with something of the feeling I suppose which others experience in looking upon the pictures of dear departed ones. We were separated according to the common custom when I was an infant, and of course, before I knew my mother from any one else. I do not remember to have seen my mother at my grandmother's at any time. I remember her only in her visits to me at Colonel Lloyd's plantation, and in the kitchen of my old master. Her visits to me there were few in number, brief in duration, and mostly made in the night. The pains she took, and the toil she endured to see me, tells me that a true mother's heart was hers, and that slavery had difficulty in paralysing it with unmotherly indifference. My mother was hired out to a Mr. Stewart, who lived about twelve miles from old master's; and, being a field hand, she seldom had leisure by day for the performance of the journey. The nights and the distance were both obstacles to her visits. She was obliged to walk unless chance flung into her way an opportunity to ride; and the latter was sometimes her good luck. But she always had to walk one way or the other (N.B., 12 miles).

We regret that we must desist from further quotations, even in the fragmentary form which, for brevity's sake, we have adopted; and such as we have been able to make are all associated with the quieter and less stirring portions of Douglass's history. Scenes of flagrant cruelty are too commonly taken as exceptional, and many voices are raised, exclaiming—Oh, this is shocking, abominable, but this is not a faithful picture of slavery as one of "our institutions." The clanking chain, the resounding lash, the bleeding back, the lacerated limb, appeal to the senses and easily awaken compassion, and are also easily evaded by some phrase like this: Oh! on respectable plantations these things are not permitted. We have therefore purposely directed the attention of our readers to the silent and more subtle workings of the hideous system—the quiet, almost unobserved endeavours to detach the unhappy victim of American slavery from humanity; to extinguish from his birth, if possible, any idea that he is other than a brute—he must have no father, no mother, no name. It is only by minutely dwelling upon all these little points that an English reader can realise—to use for once a sadly-overridden word—the idea of what American slavery is.

No education—of course not; for it would make slaves rebellious. The pains taken to prevent Douglass from learning to read and to write, and the difficulties he overcame, were indeed stupendous. Hear his own unaffected narrative:—

The idea as to how I might learn to write was suggested to me by being in Durgin and Bailey's ship-yard, and frequently seeing the ship-carpenters, after hewing and getting a piece of timber ready for use, write on the timber the name of that part of the ship for which it was intended. When a piece was intended for the larboard side it would be marked L; for starboard, S; for larboard forward, L F; for starboard forward, S F. I soon learned the names of these letters, and for what they were intended when placed upon a piece of timber in the ship-yard. I immediately commenced copying them, and in a short time was able to make the four letters named. After that, when I met with any boy who I knew could write I would tell him I could write as well as he. The next word would be, I don't believe you; let me see you try it. I would then make the letters which I had been so fortunate as to learn, and ask him to beat that. In this way I got many lessons in writing, which, it is quite possible, I should never have gotten in any other way. During this time my copy-book was the board fence, brick-wall, and pavement; my pen and ink was a lump of chalk; with these I learnt mainly how to write.

The ingenuity as well as the perseverance of this poor slave-boy is most admirable. Many have been the examples of poor boys soliciting instruction; but the notion of awakening jealousy, and profiting by it in the manner so naively confessed, bespeaks intellectual powers which no chains could hold in captivity. Frederick Douglass points to an imaginary portrait of his mother; we would recommend any reader, even slightly acquainted with the principles of physiognomy, to cast his eyes upon the portrait of Douglass himself in front of the volume, and ask whether the Americans may not bless themselves that the mild doctrines of Christ have softened the dark Douglass's heart. Without the restraint of religion, and with the wrongs of slavery to revenge and avenge, what a leader is there portrayed! Had not the countenance of Spartacus such lines? We cannot but fancy it had.

SCIENCE.

Popular Astronomy. By FRANCOIS ARAGO. Translated from the original and edited by Admiral W. H. SMYTH, D.C.L., For. Sec. R. S., &c., and ROBERT GRANT, Esq., M.A., F.R.A.S. In two vols. Vol. I. London: Longman and Co.

It is a curious fact that, although as a science astronomy has had a definite existence for more than three thousand years, it cannot yet be termed a popular branch of human knowledge. It is true that the subjects of which it treats, and the laws which it investigates, are, from their nature, such as would, it may well be supposed, interest every one; still (although during the present century the number of amateur observers has greatly increased) the majority of men, even in what are called the well-educated classes, are in a state of almost utter astronomical ignorance. A few general laws of nature, indeed, they may have learnt by hearsay, or picked up in the course of desultory reading; but very rarely do we meet with one who is able to explain anything lucidly, or give a reason for the faith that is in him.

The magnitude and nature of the science prevents astronomy from ever advantageously forming a portion of our ordinary school education, and it is clear, therefore, that all who desire to obtain information on the subject must, if they have not had the advantage of a mathematical training at some university, depend mainly upon private study after they have entered on the active business of life. To such people a "Popular Astronomy" is a necessary; and many works, indeed, have been of late published, claiming to be considered such, but which have failed in being of general use, either from their meagreness or from their profundity.

We have, indeed, "Hand-books" and "Outlines" which are merely collections of barren facts, accompanied by unsatisfactory explanations—unsatisfactory, because, demanding so much as they do from the faith of the reader, they are insufficient; and, on the other hand, we have treatises which, for their due and full understanding, require such an amount of mathematical knowledge and power, that they are to "the people" sealed books.

To popularise science is a work which can only be efficiently performed by one possessing not only a profound knowledge of his subject, but the power (which is a rare one) of expressing, in clear and lucid language, results which have been

obtained by deep research and investigations beyond the powers of the many. Such a man, in astronomy and its kindred subjects, was Arago. Devoted to, and distinguished in, the study of mathematics from his youth, and enjoying great advantages from the scientific institutions of Paris, he became a profound philosopher and an acute observer. His merits as a scientific man are proved by the fact of his having been, by 47 out of 52 voters, elected, at the early age of twenty-three, a "member of the Academy of Sciences at the French Institute," with such opponents as Poisson and Monet. That he possessed the quality of mind requisite to enable him to present in popular language, with convincing force of logic, and in a lucid and concise style, physical truths and natural phenomena, we have, in addition to his works, the testimony of one of the greatest men of modern days—Humboldt—who speaks of him as possessing "the powerful genius which originates new ideas, and renders fruitful those already attained," and "that rare lucidity which can describe recently-discerned and complicated departments of discovery as clearly as if they had been the long-acquired possessions of human intelligence."

The volume before us is part of the translation of Arago's works now being published under the editorship of Colonel Sabine, Professor Powell, Admiral Smyth, and Mr. Grant, and in this series "Popular Astronomy" is to occupy two volumes. It would be obviously impossible to give even an outline of the method followed by the author in this volume, of which the table of contents alone fills some twenty-six pages. We must be contented, therefore, with stating, in the author's words, the causes which led to the existence of the book, and the objects intended to be accomplished. We should premise that it consists of a series of lectures which Arago delivered for eighteen consecutive years at the Observatory at Paris. In his introductory address in 1851 he says:—

The course of lectures which I am about to commence forms one of the obligations imposed upon the *Bureau des Longitudes*, in virtue of its fundamental constitution. While confiding to myself the honour of representing them, my colleagues have had the goodness to refer entirely to myself the question with respect to the mode of considering the science and the number of lectures I shall devote to the development of its principal theories. I should then have a right to deliver a course of technical astronomy destined for astronomers by profession, a course of physical astronomy for the use of officers of the Marine, a course upon the relations between astronomy and the art of horology. These different courses would offer interest only to a very small number of persons. I have then adopted a more extended plan, I have decided upon giving lectures which every person can understand. I must, however, acquaint you that this course will be elementary only in form. All the branches of the science, even the most delicate, will pass successively before you. . . . I shall then deliver my course without supposing on the part of my audience any mathematical knowledge whatever. . . . My sole ambition here will be to initiate you in astronomical truths of three thousand years of studies, of researches, and of persevering labours.

The pledge thus given is (as far as we can judge from the volume before us) more than redeemed. The astronomical portion of the work is preceded by a brief but clear statement and proof of the few fundamental propositions in geometry, mechanics, and optics necessary for its understanding. Historical notices of the various discoveries are interwoven with the explanations of the discoveries themselves; and some idea of the extent to which the subject is treated will be understood from the fact, that we find, in simple and lucid language, explanations of many of the phenomena which form the subjects of deeply learned articles in the "Repertoire of Monge," upon questions common to astronomy and optics, such as the velocity of rays of light of different colours.

To the amateur astronomer a careful perusal will suggest fields of investigation, in which he may become a fruitful labourer. To such as possess good eyes and a moderately-powerful telescope we would commend the subject of temporary and periodic stars. Good service may be done in the cause of science by making and comparing careful observations of these strange and mysterious phenomena, such as may enable us to determine the origin of "these sudden and fitful flashes"—these irregular appearances and disappearances. For each of the existing theories respecting them much may be said, and it will be for observers to decide between them, and to

tell us whether the varying brightness of these stars is, as Bouillaud suggested, caused by the existence of spots upon their surface, partially illuminated, and presented to our view in succession by means of their rotation upon axes; or whether, with Pigott, we must suppose the existence of some semi-opaque nebulous masses, interposed more or less between us and the star by circulation about that star; or again whether, finally, according to a conjecture of Maupertuis, "in the infinite number of stars there are to be found some which are very much flattened, so as to resemble mill-stones. They present themselves to us sometimes by their edge and sometimes by their broad surface; and this circumstance, according to the literary astronomer, amply suffices to explain their variations of brightness."

To determine between these theories, to show which we must accept, is, we repeat, a task within the reach and worthy of the labours of any intelligent observer; and one which has additional interest from the fact that he may in its prosecution add much to our knowledge, on the subject of the velocity of light, and more especially on the interesting question as to whether rays of light of different colours move in space with the same velocity.

The chapters on zodiacal light are especially valuable and interesting, and the more so from the fact that the subject is one on which the existing treatises on astronomy (as far as our knowledge of them extends) are either very meagre or altogether silent, not excepting even the larger edition of Herschel's *Outlines*.

Many of our readers will, doubtless, have remarked soon after sunset, sometime in the months of March, April, or May, or at the opposite seasons before sunrise, a light having the form of an ellipse or elongated spindle, extending obliquely upwards from the horizon and generally following the direction of the sun's apparent path. To this has been given the name of "The Zodiacal Light." It has been supposed that it did not exist previously to the commencement of the sixteenth century, and was called then into existence by the sun's penetrating, by virtue of its proper motion, the centre of a nebula, and afterwards retaining that nebula about its centre by virtue of attraction. This theory, propounded by no mean man, is exploded by the consideration that the nebula in question would have been visible before the sun had penetrated to its centre; and further, though the first recorded observation is that by Childrey, in 1659—who, in his "Natural History of England," says that he observed "during several consecutive years, in the month of February, when the twilight had quitted the horizon, a luminous track very easy to remark, darting out from the twilight, straight towards the Pleiades, and seeming to touch them"—still the labours of Mairan and others would seem to prove that the light was known to, and seen by, the ancients; indeed, it is more than probable that "the light in the form of a cone," seen shortly after the capture of Rome by Alaric, and spoken of by Nicephorus, was none other than the Zodiacal Light.

Of the cause of this cosmological phenomenon the scientific world is in ignorance; speculation has been rife, and ingenuity exercised upon the subject. Carsini's theory that the sun may eject "a somewhat gross substance, capable of reflecting the rays of light;" and the more general theory, that the Zodiacal Light indicates the extreme limits of the solar atmosphere, are at once set aside by the known laws and principles of dynamics. Observation gives results which are inconsistent with Young's idea that "this light is the effect of the refraction of the solar light in the terrestrial atmosphere." Ingenious, but unsatisfactory, or at any rate unsubstantiated, is the theory of Laplace, that the Zodiacal Light is composed of molecules revolving about the sun, independent of one another, and being themselves "the most subtle parts of the primitive nebula, which by its condensation, according to the cosmogonic ideas of the great geometer, has given birth to the sun and the different planets of which our system is composed." It will be for some future Newton, some Adams, or some Herschel, to dispel the obscurity in which this and many other celestial phenomena are at present shrouded.

In fine, the work seems to us to contain a very great amount of that vast store of knowledge which has hitherto been found only in the publications of learned societies, or in treatises which are, either from their style or some other causes, equally inaccessible to the ordinary student.

We heartily recommend it to all those who seek to obtain a general, and still sound knowledge of physical truths, and of those laws by which the stability of the universe is maintained, and who have not had the opportunity of previously going through the mathematical training which has hitherto been considered as an almost necessary and indispensable introduction.

The woodcuts which illustrate the text, and especially those of the astronomical instruments, are remarkably clear. Indeed, it will be understood they are so when we state that they are those of the French edition.

WAR BOOKS.

The Past Campaign: a Sketch of the War in the East, from the Departure of Lord Raglan to the Capture of Sebastopol. By N. A. Woods, late Special Correspondent of the *Morning Herald* at the seat of war. London: Longmans and Co. 1855.

PEOPLE have become so accustomed to identify the name of Mr. W. H. Russell, the gifted correspondent of the *Times*, with the novel and interesting part taken by the press of this country in connection with the war now raging in the East, that they will probably learn with surprise, if not with actual unbelief, that if the author of these volumes ranks second to Mr. Russell as a faithful and talented reporter of the momentous events which he beheld, it is only because the journal which he represented enjoys a publicity less in extent than that of which the *Times* is never tired of boasting. Far be it from us to detract one iota from the justly-earned fame of the brilliant Irishman, whose vivid pen illumined, even if his wayward fancy did occasionally throw an uncertain light over, the more than Cimmerian darkness which enveloped the first movements of that mighty expedition. All we claim for Mr. Woods is his fair share of praise—that just meed of approbation which men too often refuse to obscurer labourers, when their attention is entirely occupied with the unbounded admiration of some greater or more pretentious personage. When the public mind was constantly on the alert to receive news from the seat of war, and the letters of the newspaper correspondents were greedily and eagerly perused, there were many who singled out for special admiration the letters of Mr. Woods in the *Morning Herald*. Whilst the mass of readers was lost in wonderment at the marvellous word-pictures of the *Times* correspondent (sometimes brilliant and fantastic as the most audacious experiments of Turner), not a few among the more judicious and discriminating readers pointed out the graphic yet truthful, modest yet fearless compositions of this young writer as really more valuable and admirable. Whether the general verdict of the English public will ratify that opinion remains now to be seen. A *réchauffé* of Mr. Russell's letters has been in print for some months past, and now Mr. Woods, having returned to England by stress of ill-health, has himself superintended a reissue of some of the best of his dispatches. Not that the volumes before us consist entirely of those letters, for there is much original matter interspersed; not the least interesting of which is the journal kept by the heroic Butler during the siege of Silistria, up to within a day or two of his death, which journal has been handed over by the gallant Major's friends to Mr. Woods, for publication in the present work.

Through the kindness of the officers, Mr. Woods obtained a passage in the *Caradoc*, which conveyed Lord Raglan, Lord De Ros, and Admiral Boxer from Marseilles to Constantinople. Upon landing there, he found preparations being made for forming the ill-omened camp at Varna, and everybody apparently aware of the folly of it but those whose business it was to be informed.

From every gentleman whom I consulted, without one single exception, I heard the same accounts—that it was beyond all doubt one of the very worst spots which could by any possibility have been chosen. Some were quite indignant, all were surprised to the last degree; and the common expression was, that it was sheer madness to think of putting even a Turkish camp there, much less an English one, in which the soldiers would of course suffer still more.

When at last the troops did arrive at Varna, the few Franks there stared as if we had ten heads on, when we told them that the English generals intended forming a camp round Devna.

Formed, however, the camp was, and with how sad results is too well known and deplored to

render it necessary for us to dwell upon them here. Mr. Woods moved on to Devna about the beginning of July, and enjoyed his first experience of the discomforts of marching. However amusing the following accident may be in a book, we dare to say it was vexatious enough in fact.

I was flattering myself that my difficulties were over, when I heard a peculiar kind of crushing noise upon the road behind me, the meaning of which I knew but too well. I turned, "and, as I turned, surveyed an awful vision." There was the refractory baggage-horse, free and untrammelled, contemplating with a pensive aspect the contents of my saddle-bags. . . . I say nothing about my writing-desk being broken open by the shock, and how the quires of foreign letter-paper were fluttering gaily down the road, nor of the much-valued flasks of brandy which were shattered among my flannel shirts. These were minor evils; but who could look with equanimity upon all his tea got loose among everything, and an inverted saltbox reposing jauntily in the midst of a store of ground coffee? I felt that fate had done its worst; so, leaving the servant to gather up the things as he best could, I galloped back to the place from whence I had started in the morning, where, after waiting for about three hours, I got my tent pitched and soon had the miserable consolation of knowing that I was not without company in my distress. Upon the other side of the valley in which I was camped I descried a tent, which I found was occupied by the correspondent for the *Times* (who had also been prevented going forward by the desertion of his faithless wagggoner), and an officer who had broken down *en route* from Varna to Devna. We held a committee of ways and means, but only succeeded in ascertaining beyond all doubt that our ways and means were extremely limited, as we found that ourselves, four servants, and eight horses, were to be fed on one fowl, two pounds of rice, and the remnants of a cheese. How we eventually managed it I cannot exactly say; but I am certain no heavy meal disturbed our slumbers that night.

Arrived at the Camp, Mr. Woods gives some graphic sketches of the scenes he witnessed there. Upon the moot question about the value of the Bashi Bazouks, he gives a very decided opinion:—"In war they are at best but cowardly assassins, and in peace devastating plunderers, dangerous alike to friends and foes. They are, in fact (he adds), formidable to all except the Russians, whom they sometimes assassinate, but never openly attack." For all that we have heard during the present war this opinion appears to be justified.

On the 23rd of July the French started on their unfortunate expedition to the Dobrudja. Mr. Woods gives some useful information as to the loss which our allies sustained by that blunder. It should be remembered that neither upon this nor upon any other occasion were the French Generals troubled with the presence of reporters to give an account of their proceedings to the people at home.

The real loss of men sustained by our allies in this fatal reconnaissance will never be accurately known till the French Government think fit to disclose it; but from various sources it can easily be seen that it was something unparalleled in the annals of modern warfare. Horace Vernet, who was with the troops during their march, said that, exclusive of Bashi Bazouks (of whom nearly 1000 perished), upwards of 5000 French soldiers, infantry and Zouaves, died.

Death was busy, too, with the English division, where they were burying "at the rate of nearly 120 men a day."

On the 10th of August the disastrous fire of Varna took place. An accident which occurred during that great calamity serves to illustrate the great difference between veterans and raw troops at the outset of a campaign. Some barrels of spirits had caught fire and exploded.

Unfortunately, at the same instant a trumpet was blown; the French soldiers took it as a signal, and, with loud cries of "*La poudrière, la poudrière!*" French and English soldiers and civilians fled from the spot. Only a few English sailors who had been landed from the fleet, with some Zouaves, withstood the panic. They still remained round the magazine, and fought the fire; and, after a while, the spectacle of their invincible courage induced others to return.

At the end of August the troops began to embark for the Crimea, delighted with the prospect of something to be done at last, and on the 14th of September the entire expedition landed at Kalamita Bay. The details of the landing, of the march upon the Alma, and of that glorious effort with which the allies wrested from Menschikoff that position which he had confidently deemed impregnable, are well known. Mr. Wood's description of the battle is admirable.

An incident which occurred during the celebrated "flank march" deserves quotation:—

Painted on the walls of this house (it belonged to

General Alexianoff), were a few sentences in French, to the effect that the cellars were full of wine, to which the allies were perfectly welcome, if they would only abstain from injuring the trees in the orchard. Several of our own regiments had passed this house, as the strictest injunctions were issued to the troops that they were not to steal or damage property of any description. However, the forbearance of the loiterers in the court-yard was quite overcome, when one of the chief officers of our staff issued from the house laden with a large bronze statuette of Minerva, which he proceeded to secure before him on the saddle with all speed. Of course, after such an example, the troops could not be expected to restrain their itching palms.

The feeling of the army on its arrival at Balaklava is well described:

The English at the time were uncommonly well pleased with their base of operations, and principally because all the grounds round Balaklava abounded in fruit and vegetables of every description. Sevastopol was to be taken by a *coup-de-main*, or, if not, its siege would only be a brisk affair of four or five days. Not a man in the whole army, from the commander-in-chief down to the youngest drummer-boy, ever calculated or ever thought it possible that the place would hold out. The idea of wintering on the ground on which we stood, or that the vineyards in which we rejoiced would ever become impassable sloughs and cause the destruction of half the army, was never thought within the bounds of possibility.

How miserably these expectations were deceived we all know. "With the first glimpse of the place Lord Raglan and Sir John Burgoyne are said to have abandoned all idea of being able to effect anything by a *coup-de-main*." If the testimony of Mr. Woods is to be relied upon, this judgment was a sound one; for he states it to be the opinion of all competent authorities that a hasty attack upon Sebastopol would, whether immediately successful or the reverse, have resulted in the destruction of the allied army. The reasoning upon this is very cogent.

But, even supposing that the most perfect success attended the assault, and the south of the town fell into our hands, how could the allies have held their ground? With a larger number of troops, and a smaller space to defend, it was with difficulty that we maintained our position during the winter. How could we have done so at all if our army had been reduced at least 25 per cent. by the cost of the assault, and had the whole of the town to defend in addition to the immense lines already occupied? Under such circumstances, would the corps under Liprandi have ever been repulsed?

Be this as it may, no excuse can be offered for those who were responsible for the provision of a sufficient amount of material to conduct the siege. In the beginning of October "it was discovered, for the first time, that we had not half enough guns even for the commencement of the siege." At this time the discipline in the cavalry arm was such as to cause the most serious forebodings—too soon to be realised upon the plains of Balaklava:

The dissensions between Lords Lucan and Cardigan were notorious; and, what was worse, neither took any pains to conceal the pleasure with which he viewed the least indications of the other's unpopularity with the regiments. Lord Lucan was disliked as inactive; Lord Cardigan was hated with an intensity of aversion such as I have never seen equalled. . . . The men of the regiments looked up to their regimental officers, but that was all; beyond this feeling there was nothing but anxiety lest Cardigan should get the brigade annihilated by his foolhardiness, or Lucan suffer it to be defeated through timidity.

On the 9th of October, orders were issued to the English engineer officers to trace the batteries; and in the night a working party was told off to commence operations. So complete, however, was the want of arrangement, that the party, after wandering about some time in the dark and endeavouring in vain to find the lines which had been traced, returned to the camp without having used either pick or spade. The English engineers had not even theodolites to take their surveys with. On the 17th of October the combined attack took place, and failed. On the 25th Liprandi advanced upon Balaklava, and the Russians were routed by that never-to-be-forgotten Charge of the Heavy Brigade. In describing the events of that day, Mr. Woods explodes that celebrated fiction about Sir Colin Campbell forming the Highlanders two deep to receive a charge of cavalry. The "thin red line topped with steel," standing firm, with a large body of the *corps d'élite* of Russian cavalry within 150 yards of them, apparently existed nowhere but in Mr. Russell's brilliant imagination. The Russians, some 600 strong, were advancing upon the position:—

They cantered down the hill at good speed until within some 700 or 800 yards of where the 93rd remained in line. At this long distance the Highlanders and Turks fired a volley, but apparently without the least effect; and, satisfied with such a display of valour, the Turks instantly ran away. The enemy, who had halted, apparently irresolute, witnessed the defection of the Turks; and, moving to the left, again advanced upon the unprotected right flank of the Highlanders. They moved cautiously, and the pace of their horses never exceeded a trot. When within 400 or 500 yards they again paused, and halted outright upon perceiving that the 93rd had moved their grenadier companies round in support of their right flank. While standing thus, the Highlanders fired a second volley, but, like the former, without any apparent effect; and the Russians, wheeling to the left, fell slowly back to the base of the hill on which the No. 1 redoubt was situated.

"This," adds Mr. Woods, "is a plain and true statement of all the facts connected with what is frequently called in England the charge of cavalry upon the 93rd. Every officer who was present at the battle of Balaklava knows perfectly well, that apparently the enemy's cavalry had no more intention of charging the Highlanders than they had of charging the heights held by the Marines."

It is almost unnecessary to add that there is no foundation for the absurd remarks attributed to Sir Colin Campbell, "that he did not think it worth while to form the regiment even four deep." Sir Colin is far too good and experienced a soldier ever to think of exposing 700 men, in a line two deep, to resist the shock of a charge of cavalry 600 strong and four deep. Had the Russians showed any sign of closing with the regiment, it would have instantly formed square. At the same time, it is the merest justice to say that the gallant 93rd would have stood with equal coolness had the enemy really charged, and had they been ordered to meet them in a line two, or even one deep.

This is no disparagement to the Highlanders, but simply a plea in favour of truth against eloquent but dangerous exaggeration. With the concluding tribute to the valour of the 93rd, every one who knows anything about these gallant soldiers will heartily coincide, and their best friends must surely be of opinion that their glory is too real to need the aid of fiction and romance. Yet such was the impression produced by Mr. Russell's fanciful description, that the Exhibition of the Royal Academy actually contained a picture representing the Highlanders, two deep, receiving the Russians on the points of their bayonets!!

Respecting the fatal charge of the Light Brigade, Mr. Woods says little. In his opinion the balance of testimony seems to render Lord Lucan less blameable than was commonly supposed. But, whoever was to blame, no one will refuse to "hold in passionate admiration the recollection of those brave men, who, without hesitation or faltering, obeyed their orders, even unto death." The best explanation of that horrible enigma is probably to be found in those dissensions between the commanding officers, of which mention has been already made.

The next act in that bloody drama was the battle of Inkermann. Mr. Woods's picture of that desperate struggle is admirable, and we would willingly have given it *in extenso*. We can do no more, however, than extract the passages which describe the final crisis, when Bosquet's division arrived just in time to save the brave little body of our countrymen from imminent peril.

It was near eleven o'clock, and the sun was beginning to penetrate the mist, and show the scanty numbers of the English who still resisted or were capable of resisting. Our men were almost beginning to waver; they stood irresolute, or kept shifting back with their faces to the foe, crying out that they had no ammunition. One French regiment advanced in front to relieve our exhausted troops and check the Russians. As they surmounted the brow of the hill to close with the enemy, they were met by volleys of round shot, shell, and grape from the Russian batteries. The French got into confusion, fired an irregular volley, halted, wavered, and retired. Their falling back dispirited our troops still more. Instead of forming up they began to break into little knots, and some cried out "that it was no use," "it was all up," &c. At this most critical juncture, General Bosquet detached a regiment of Zouaves to the right, and one of Chasseurs Indigènes, each about 1500 strong. With gallant daring they rushed upon the grey masses which covered the hill near the two-gun battery, and drove them back with fearful loss. At the same moment, the French regiment on the road rallied, and again advanced; and our own wearied men, fired with renewed ardour, formed up their thin and broken ranks, and dashed forward. Chasseur

and our line: regiments, Zouaves and Guardsmen, mingled together and fought side by side. With cheers and yells they poured on and massacred the enemy at the point of the bayonet. In less than twenty minutes, nearly 40,000 Russians were driven headlong from the hill.

Compare this scene of glory and excitement with a survey of the dreadful consequences, and the picture is complete:—

I shall never recall the memory of Inkermann Valley with any but feelings of loathing and horror; for round the spot from which I surveyed the scene lay upwards of 2000 dead bodies. Many badly wounded also lay there; and their low, dull moans of mortal agony struck with terrible distinctness upon the ear, or, worse still, the hoarse gurgling cry and vehement struggles of those who were convulsed before they passed away. Round the hill small groups of men with hospital stretchers were searching out those who still survived; and others again, with lanterns, busily turning over the dead, looking for the bodies of officers who were known to be killed, but who had not been found. Here also were English women, whose husbands were missing, hurrying about with loud lamentations, turning the faces of our dead to the moonlight, and eagerly seeking for what they feared to find. The ambulances, as fast as they came up, received their load of sufferers, and men with blankets were employed to convey the wounded to the rear. Outside the battery the Russians lay two or three deep. Inside the place was literally filled with bodies of Russians, Guardsmen, men of the 41st, 56th, and 20th. The fine tall forms of our poor fellows could be distinguished at a glance, though the grey great coats stained with blood rendered them alike externally. They lay as they fell, in heaps; sometimes our men over three or four Russians, and sometimes a Russian over three or four of ours. Some had passed away with a smile on their faces, and seemed as if asleep; others were horribly contorted, and with distended eyes and swollen features appeared to have died in agony, but defying to the last. Some lay as if prepared for burial, and as though the hands of relatives had arranged their mangled limbs; while others again were in almost startling positions, half standing or kneeling, clutching their weapons or drawing a cartridge. Many lay with both their hands extended towards the sky, as if to avert a blow or utter a prayer; while others had a malignant scowl of mingled fear and hatred, as if, indeed, they died despairing. The moonlight imparted an aspect of unnatural paleness to their features, and as the cold damp wind swept round the hills and waved the boughs above their upturned faces, the shadows gave a horrible appearance of vitality; and it seemed as if the dead were laughing and moving to rise.

It is only fair to Mr. Russell to remember that much of the effect of his description of the Battle of Inkermann upon the public was lost, by the fact that it arrived piece-meal in this country, and was published irregularly—the middle portion of the dispatch having miscarried. Mr. Woods obviated this, by putting himself into a steamer as soon after the battle as possible, and writing his letter during the voyage between Balaklava and Constantinople. This was a very clever piece of journalist tactics.

The gale of the 14th of November affords Mr. Woods an opportunity for saying something on behalf of Captain Christie, whom he believes to be "a very ill-used man." He enters very fully into the causes which operated to the disadvantage of the English during the winter bivouac, and attributes the better condition of the French to three reasons—the superior provision made for them by their Emperor, the kind and watchful personal superintendence of Canrobert, and the better position of their camps. The English had apparently to contend against the reverse of all these advantages. The details given of the sufferings of our poor fellows are harrowing in the extreme. It is highly creditable to Mr. Woods, and is a complete answer to those who are likely to accuse him of permitting his antipathies as a journalist to interfere with the faithful discharge of his duty, that he has not failed to recognise in the warmest and most generous spirit the eminent services rendered by Mr. Macdonald, the dispenser of the *Times* Charitable Fund. Speaking of the little tea-house established at Balaklava under the auspices of that gentleman, he declares that it would be difficult, if not impossible, to name any charitable institution which, at such a trifling outlay, has ever relieved as great an amount of misery and suffering as this.

Mr. Woods remained with the army until after the return of the first Kerch expedition, when he was seized with the Crimean fever and compelled to give up his duties. His description of all the events of the siege up to that time is excellent throughout; and when the state of his health obliged him to return, the *Morning Herald* lost a

most efficient correspondent, and the English press one of its best representatives. He has contrived to give a completeness to his work by compiling from other sources a short account of all the proceedings up to the capture of the Karabelnaia, or south side of Sebastopol; but, as these sources are equally open to us all, we need not follow him into that part of his narrative.

Before concluding this notice, we must give some extracts from the interesting journal of the brave defender of Silistria to which we have already referred. The entire journal is very brief, for it does not occupy more than forty-five pages of Mr. Woods' volumes. After the rounded periods of the professional writer, these hasty notes, jotted down by the practical soldier in the brief intervals of rest allowed him by his heroic and ceaseless labours, make at first sight but a very indifferent show. But when we consider the devotion of the man, the singleness of purpose which he displayed, and how nobly he has sustained the reputation of that ancient British valour which has ever been a terror to our foes, each rugged sentence becomes eloquent in our eyes, and moves us more deeply and more thoroughly than the grandest period or the finest phrase.

The journal commences on the 11th of May, 1854. The cannonade upon Silistria had already commenced.

Our guns replied vigorously to those of the enemy, whose practice on that day was very bad, that of the Turks a good deal better, although I think the state of their artillery has been a good deal exaggerated; the men certainly work their guns well, but everything is conducted in a very slovenly manner. On the 12th, 13th, and 14th we expected the Russians would attempt a crossing opposite from the island of Shiblach, as they had completed a zig-zag of approach, and everything appeared in readiness for it. On our side preparations were made to give them a warm reception; batteries thrown up at the threatened point, &c.

On the 18th the Russians erected a battery on Salhane Island, a small spot near Silistria and the Teherzell battery. What the state of the town was at this time, may be inferred from the note:—"I have given up noticing casualties, as it is extremely difficult to ascertain the correct number." On the 19th, the Russians opened trenches. This was an anxious time for Butler.

Rode up to Arab Tabia; observed from there the enemy's trenches near the Danube, also a second battery which he has commenced on Salhane Island, for the purpose of reaching Fort Glaube. Trees in front of Stamboul Gate ordered to be cut down (this order was never properly carried out). Remained late upon the ramparts watching the shells coursing through the air, and went to sleep about two or three o'clock, with the music of falling shells for lullaby.

This Arab Tabia was a fortified height, and was the key of Silistria. For several days the efforts of the Russians to gain possession of it were increasing; but Butler, in spite of the inefficient discipline of his troops, contrived to hold it firmly. That he was not very sanguine of the result, in the event of a general assault, may be gathered from a note entered in the journal on the 23rd:—

The state of the garrison whilst the alarm lasted did not tend to inspire much confidence as to what was to be expected in the event of a sudden assault being expected. Hardly a man at his post and not a bugle sounded or drum beat.

The following day was the Queen's birthday, and Butler was in better spirits. Omar Pasha had sent word that in eight days they would see red jackets on the heights above the town: a promise which was never realised. So far as knowledge of warfare was concerned, Butler's Moslem allies were of little use to him. Hussein Pasha, one of the principal officers, actually proposed to leave riflemen outside the fort during the night, and it was only after a sort of council of war that this absurd proposition was negatived. Soon after this, the Turkish officers were in favour of abandoning Arab Tabia, the key of the place, and it was with difficulty that Butler could dissuade them from doing so. On the 28th the Russians made a night-attack upon Arab Tabia, and were signally repulsed. On the 29th some of the garrison think they discern relief coming from Schoumla, and Butler gallops out to meet them. "A nice sell it turned out to be—merely the garrison of Koochook Mustapha, who were being sent as part of relief to Arab Tabia."

People even become used to a bombardment. Witness this little incident on the 1st of June.

Whilst the firing was going on at sunset, I saw several little urchins, about nine or ten years old, actually chasing the round shot as they ricocheted, as coolly as if they had been cricket balls, racing who was to get them first, a reward of twenty paras (about one penny English) being given by the Pasha for every cannon ball brought in.

On the 2nd, Moosa Pasha was killed by a piece of shell in the loins. Butler says, "he was a kind-hearted, good man; his loss is severely felt." On the same day 5000 Bashi Bazouks and 2000 Albanians arrived as reinforcements. On the 3rd, the position of affairs at Arab Tabia became critical. The Russians were mining the fort, and an attack was expected. Butler and Nasmyth rode out to join the garrison, and found everything in confusion. The commander, Latif Bey, "was non inventus; hardly an officer was to be found; some of the officers said they were being sacrificed, and I actually saw one blubbering like a child, and rubbing his eyes in the presence of his men, who, poor devils, were behaving very well, and ready to do anything they were ordered." Next day the cowardice of the Turkish officers had increased, but fortunately the Russians delayed the assault. On the 6th a skirmish took place. On the 8th it was resolved to trace out new retranchments in Arab Tabia, and Butler, Nasmyth, and others, volunteered to perform the task. While busily engaged in doing so, a spent rifle bullet struck Butler in the shoulder, but only bruised him. The retranchment was not made too soon, for on the 12th the Russians sprung a mine, and threatened an attack; the retranchment, however, saved the place. On the 13th a sortie upon the Russians was arranged, and Butler was to have commanded one column and Nasmyth the other. While the necessary arrangements were being made, poor Butler received the wound which eventually proved fatal to him.

I crept into the new embrasure for the purpose of examining the enemy's parallel on which our sortie was to be made; whilst doing so, was struck by a rifle bullet in the forehead, but, thanks to a thick skull and the ball having just passed through part of the parapet not yet cut through, it did not penetrate the skull, although it left a terrible hole, and made me feel rather funny. This put a stop to the sortie at least for some days. I was assisted down to the town, where the surgeon did the needful.

This wound, spoken of so lightly, became mortal, doubtless through the state of exhaustion and excitement into which his untiring labours had thrown him. In his journal he makes no further mention of the mischief; but two days afterwards he was no longer able to write, and on the 22nd of June he died.

Few officers (says Mr. Woods) who have closed their lives at the early age of twenty-seven have ever attained a higher reputation for undaunted courage and military ability than Major J. A. Butler. With only the slender means at his command, he encountered the whole might of the Russian forces; and, after a contest of six weeks of the most desperate and bloody nature, succeeded in utterly defeating the enemy. The gallant nature of his struggle and the importance of his victory cannot be overrated; and the high nature of the rewards which he was certain to have received from both the Turkish, English, and French Governments used to form a favourite topic of conversation among all our officers. As it was, earthly rewards arrived too late. But his friends have the proud satisfaction of knowing that he fell nobly in the successful discharge of his duty, and has left behind him a name which will be fresh in the records and admiration of his countrymen when the desolating effects of the war he has illustrated have passed away like a tale that is told.

VOYAGES AND TRAVELS.

Sayah; or, the Courier to the East. By the Author of "Soldiers and Sailors," "Spain," &c. London: Chapman and Hall.

THE *Courier to the East* is Major Byng Hall, who has visited Constantinople we know not how many times since the war began, in the character of Queen's Messenger. The journey to and fro, and the performance of his mission, which is to carry the dispatches and wait to bring back the reply, usually occupies about five weeks. A Queen's Messenger proceeds day and night as fast as steam or horses can bear him. Major Hall's route has been to Marseilles, and thence to the Dardanelles by the regular mail packets. His stay at Constantinople has been always short, and shorter still the rest allowed at the few places touched by the way. But, short as the time permitted for observation, Major Hall has made the best use of it, and has preserved many interesting

sketches of remarkable objects that have fallen in his way, and some curious anecdotes and adventures collected during his many rapid journeyings to and fro. The volume is small; the narrative lively and graphic; and the public are indebted to Major Hall for a most acceptable addition to the literature that has been produced by the war. This is one of the best, because one of the most real and truthful, of the books that have treated of subjects connected with it.

The steamers from Marseilles to Constantinople are thus described:—

THE FEED ON BOARD.

At the hour of nine the first bell is rung for breakfast, and at half-past nine, if the sea be calm, the muster is generally tolerably strong. A slight description of these repasts may afford some trifling amusement. In England, a fresh egg and a good cup of *café au lait*, or tea with milk, would be justly considered a fit breakfast for an emperor; but such a breakfast is by no means that offered to your notice on board the steamers of the *Messagerie Impériale*. Each morning the long table of the saloon is spread with a dessert, consisting of apples, raisins, oranges, almonds, cakes, and bonbons, in abundance, the fruit according to the season; intermixed with dishes of pickles, olives, sardines, anchovies, having a pleasing effect to the eye, if not to the digestion; while between each person and his neighbour appears a bottle of bad *vin ordinaire*, or light claret. Various dishes are then handed round, consisting of omelettes, côtelettes, hashes, and not seldom roast legs of mutton, with various vegetables. Then the dessert, hitherto only looked at, is demolished, followed by a strong cup of coffee and a *chassé* for those who desire it. Tea and eggs are also occasionally to be had if demanded, being an exception to the general rule. The dinner, which is served at half-past five, differs in few respects from the breakfast, save that a table-cloth invariably covers the mahogany (not always the case as regards the breakfast), while the dishes are more numerous and varied, soup invariably commencing the repast; in due season, not seldom followed with ripe figs or melons. In fact, the gastronomic arrangements, in most of the boats unquestionably, but not in all, are as complete as can be reasonably expected. Turkeys, fowls, and woodcocks, notoriously cheap in the Levant, in season are never absent from the table—all had of their kind. These gastronomic undertakings—for by such name alone can I term them—are distressingly fatiguing as regards the inconceivable time they kill; by no means undesirable to many during the monotony of a voyage, but destructive alike to hot dishes, which are looked at while they cool, and still more destructive to the patience of Englishmen, who prefer the onslaught on a grill or a cold ham, and are satisfied.

EASTERN SLAVERY.

Another scene, of a totally different nature, presented itself on board one of the boats by which I chanced to be a passenger, which touched alike my heart as my indignation, as did it indeed surprise me. I cannot pass it lightly over. It was simply the arrival from Smyrna of a living cargo of no less than sixty female slaves, attended by two of the most revolting-looking fellows I ever beheld. The whole of them were girls, whose ages averaged from twelve to fifteen. A portion of the forepart of the vessel was allotted to them, their sole attire being coarse loose trowsers, with a coarser blanket thrown over their shoulders—they lay literally huddled together, like a flock of sheep. I visited them on several occasions, and found them at times sleeping—the head of one on the back of another, and so on, precisely as a litter of young pigs. Others were laughing and chattering, or munching a coarse ration of bread, with which they were supplied. To speak truly, they by no means appeared cast down or sorrowful, but rather rejoicing at the novelty of the scene.

But a voyage in one of the Mediterranean packets is not so pleasant just now.

SHIP SCENES.

It is a painful picture I am about to sketch; nevertheless it is true to the very letter, and so will it continue to be as long as the horrors of war spread their terrible influences over the fate of nations. The direct mail-boats of the *Messagerie Impériale*, I must observe, are compelled, by their contract with Government, in addition to private passengers, to take on board any number of sick and wounded officers and soldiers the French military authorities may judge fit to send by them. Thus have they literally become, on their return from the East, floating hospitals. On several occasions it has been my duty, certainly not my pleasure, to return to Marseilles therein; and the dismay of several passengers, who have unknowingly found themselves so placed, has called forth alike just commiseration and censure; for truly a passenger has some right to be apprised of the fact, however he may deplore it, that the poor sick officer, whose cabin he shares, is still suffering from the Crimean fever, or has an undiscovered bullet in his body: either the one or the other, without the merciful will of God direct otherwise, may be the means, and is not seldom the means, of consigning his body to the deep long ere half the voyage is completed. And what a

sight daily meets the eye on deck, causing the heart to ache, as the mind exceedingly to deplore the miseries of war! Men without legs, without arms, shattered bodies and heads, pale and care-worn faces, half the long day, half the long night, crawl about the decks, sick, sad, and sorrowful, to breathe the fresh sea air, hoping, not seldom against all hope, they may once more reach their native land—their home—either to gain fresh health and vigour, maimed though they are for life, or die on the soil of their heart's home. Two hundred sick and wounded from the East is about the number who are generally placed on board these floating hospitals; and when I speak of those who are enabled, thus maimed and shattered, to creep about the deck, let me not lose sight of the horrors endured by those who are confined in the lower cabins and holds. What these poor wounded and suffering men have to undergo during a passage of even six days at least, during the finest weather, with the thermometer generally at 90°, not seldom exceeding 100°, it is impossible to describe. In addition to the wounded men, sick officers repose upon the deck, and share the cabins of the healthy. Many, both officers and men, being sent on board in the very last stage of human suffering, on the principle that, should they be enabled to endure the miseries of the voyage, the air of France may possibly ignite again the last spark of life. If the weather is stormy, the scene I have thus feebly described is doubly revolting to the feelings of those who enjoy the blessings of health; sea-sickness, in many cases, is added to their other sufferings, and the rolling of the vessel not seldom opens wounds already partially closed—fever increases with human agony, and the watch nightly consigns to the deep the remains of many a soldier whose heart has beaten bravely in the battle-field, and fought nobly for his country.

Here is one of the Major's portraits:—

A PASHA.

The Turkish Pasha, who subsequently accompanied me in the same steamer on my return, as far as Smyrna, on his way to Magnesia, was a corpulent and perfect specimen of his race. He came on board, not only with all the arrogance of Pashaship, but with three wives, two sons, six pipes, and a follower to each pipe; in addition to a disgusting black eunuch and his caravash, or guard. I never beheld so fat a Pasha; and I give his picture (unfortunately mislaid), taken from the life, though the heat of bringing it home must have diminished the size of his shining cheeks, which were rotund and glowing like melons. Nevertheless, I must do him the justice to add, that it also beamed with apparent good humour. Having taken possession of his cabin, he thence established himself in a small alcove in the saloon, and commenced *chibouque** No. 1; from which time he continued smoking, with few intermissions, till tired nature called for repose; his attendants continually bringing in fresh clean pipes, already ignited. Where he slept I know not, as no cabin, however capacious, in any vessel I have seen, would have contained him. Neither did he eat with the general company, but alone. From his alcove he surveyed the dinner-table, from which he selected various dishes; and what with the addition of oil, olives, and pickles, he managed to consume an inconceivable abundance, for the most part making use of a fork, though his fingers occasionally came into play. On the second evening of the passage, some young English officers, after admiring the jewelled amber mouthpieces of his pipes, managed to make friends with him, with such success that he was, at length, induced to join them in a glass or two of not very weak brandy and water, which so overcame his Excellency, that he afforded us irresistible cause for laughter: the laughter was soon suppressed, however; for, one of the English officers having, either by accident or intention, peeped into the cabin which contained his wives, his eyes flashed fire, and his cheeks puffed out twice their usual size: indeed, it was with much trouble the captain of the vessel appeased his anger, by assuring him that he did not hesitate to look at the Englishwomen on board, and if he travelled on the high seas in European boats he must subject himself to the custom of the people he met with, who had an equal right on board.

And this was

A CAPTAIN OF THE ZOUAVES.

The Captain of Zouaves could scarcely have exceeded five-and-twenty years of age. Handsome in person, manly, frank, and courteous in manners, he was by nature, as evidently by choice, a true soldier of the tented field. In fact, almost a child of the wild Arabs, from having served in Algiers since his beard had commenced its growth—his home the camp, his resting-place not seldom under the vault of heaven. In the course of conversation he informed me, without the slightest assumption of manner or bravado, that he had been five times wounded—four times in Algeria, and again at Inkerman. On the last occasion General Canrobert had sent to him to say that his wound should be bandaged with the ribbon of the Legion of Honour. "I ask for nothing more," he replied. "This, however, is the third time it has been promised; but as yet, I have never received it." "Be satisfied," said Canrobert, "the Emperor will never neglect a brave soldier." "I ob-

* Turkish pipe.

tained the wished-for prize," he continued, "and now, though scarcely recovered from my wounds, I am again returning, after a brief visit to my home, to the side of my brave comrades." In truth, he gave sufficient evidence of not having recovered from his wound; nevertheless, he was all anxiety to be once more in the battle-field, and full of energy and manly spirit. Indeed, the day subsequent to our arrival at Constantinople I met him in the bazaar. He appeared so cast down—I really feared he had some great cause of sorrow; and so had he. His brave Zouaves, as he called them, had suffered severely in a recent sortie. Of this he had just been informed, and he took the fact of his not having been present to share their dangers as much to heart as if he individually had been the cause of those disasters. I asked him if he frequently visited his home. "Rarely," he replied, "save when I have been wounded, and then I seek rest." Nevertheless, his family were alike wealthy and of high birth.

But we must not take too much from this delightful little volume; for more of equally amusing matter the reader is referred to its pages.

FICTION.

The History of Sir Thomas Thumb, By the Author of "The Heir of Redcliffe," &c. Edinburgh: Constable and Co.

ALL sorts of attractions combine to make this the most popular of the books of the season. The subject recommends itself to every ear—to the old, for memory's sake; to the young, from the love of fairy lore which seems to be a natural instinct, for it exists in all children, of all countries, and flourishes most among the peoples who are most like children. Then the subject has been written about by no less famous a personage than the authoress of "The Heir of Redcliffe," who has proved her capacity to charm the young to be equal to her power to please the old. She has given a full, true, and particular account of *Sir Thomas Thumb*, his birth, parentage, education, and adventures, in the true spirit of the old legend, preserving all its poetry and enlivening it with all her own bright fancy. Yet she appears to have written for the engravings, reversing the usual arrangement, the artist being generally called in aid to illustrate the author. We thank her for the example she has set of thus returning from the miscalled "useful-knowledge" cramming of young brains, in vogue a few years ago, to the more natural course of first cultivating the fancy, together with the feelings, and then the intellectual powers. This delightful story is profusely illustrated with engravings by J. B., a lady who has already made her initials famous by her exquisite illustrations of nursery rhymes and other and books for children, whose congenial fancy has lavished all its wealth in the production of the pictures which here represent the immortal Thumb in his most famous adventures. The volume is superbly bound, and altogether it is the most acceptable new year's gift which the season has produced.

POETRY AND THE DRAMA.

The Ballads of Ireland. Collected and Edited by EDWARD HAYES. 2 vols. A. Fullarton and Co.

THE title of this book is not very descriptive. What are these "Ballads of Ireland?" Are they ballads in Irish? or the peasant-ballads sung in street and cottage?—Neither. Are they, then, ballads by Irishmen? or ballads about Ireland?—Not exactly either, and a little of both. This is, in fact, a collection of lyrical verse, chiefly modern, similar in character to the smaller books published in Dublin some years ago, entitled "The Songs of Ireland," and "The Ballad Poetry of Ireland," and, in the best portions of it, identical with them in contents. It is dedicated to Mr. Charles Gavan Duffy, late of *The Nation*. The editor, who dates from Leeds, is plainly a warm partisan in Irish politics; but neither that warmth nor any other quality has conferred on him the least fitness for the task he has undertaken, or given his book any degree of durable vitality or coherence. He divides the ballads into Descriptive, Historical, Political, Emigrant, Pathetic, Ballads of the Affections, Fairy, Legendary, Miscellaneous, and Translated; and in the first place we have to remark on the absurdity of introducing Dr. Parnell's "Hermit," Dr. Goldsmith's ballad of the same name, Mrs. Norton's "Blind Man's Bride," John Sterling's "Lament

for Dædalus, B. Simmons's "Disinterment of Napoleon," along with a crowd of others equally incongruous, into a collection under the present title. On the same principle "Ye Mariners of England" would be classed as a Scotch ballad. There are in these volumes at least three dozen ballads which have in themselves not the remotest connexion with Ireland.

Taking the whole mass of verse, considerable in extent, presented to us here, we find, among much resonance and a good deal of dash and spirit, that the general characteristic of the Irish patriotic bards gradually but effectually impresses us as being a monotonous inflation, not hard to attain some proficience in; and, though a very different matter from poetry, yet with superficial likeness enough to deceive not only the authors, but others for a season. The writers of the *Nation* newspaper wrote a great many stout and sounding verses, and crowned each other with bay. They industriously declared themselves to be great poets, which some people believed and perhaps believe, and others have been too lazy to contradict. Let it now and here be said, if not elsewhere, in anticipation of Time's sure verdict, that these writers, with their whole band of associates, have in their day produced much declamation and some eloquence, prose and verse; but of Poetry not one solitary composition. What Carlyle said of his friend John Sterling's verse is thoroughly applicable to theirs—it is at best not music, but only drum-beating; and this is true even of their coryphæus, Thomas Davis, with all his fine qualities of heart and brain. One of these agitators of whom we are speaking, Mr. Thomas Darcy M'Gee, who in the time of trouble managed to elude capture and export his declamatory talent (of no vulgar kind) to America, appears in the present volumes to much advantage as political and patriotic ballad-writer. He was not conspicuous in that department, if we remember right, in the *Nation* and "Young Ireland" period, and many of his ballads bear evidence of having been composed in exile; however this may be, he seems to us to overtop by the head most of the rhyming rebel regiment (male and female—our Irish sisters are terrible blood-drinkers, on paper!) here on drill, by virtue of a degree of natural feeling and pithiness of language, which, under kinder stars, might have enabled him to produce something really valuable. As it is, Mr. M'Gee's muse, free as she calls herself, is too often but the ringleader of a mob, yelling out frantic curses against "the fiends" of England and their "bloody rag," and vowing to

And "shake the Gaza-pillars yet, of their godless mammon-shrine,"

The rhyme, at least, of which stanza Mr. M'Gee, in his calmer moments, could scarcely approve. As a specimen of his purer inspirations take the following, entitled

THE HOMEWARD BOUND.

Paler and thinner the morning morn'grew,
Colder and sterner the rising wind blew—
The pole-star had set in a forest of cloud,
And the icicles crackled on spar and on shroud,
When a voice from below we heard feebly cry—
"Let me see, let me see, my own Land ere I die."

"Ah, dear sailor, say, have we sighted Cape Clear?
Can you see any sign? Is the morning light near?
You are young, my brave boy; thanks, thanks for your hand;
Help me up, till I get a last glimpse of the land—
Thank God, 'tis the sun that now reddens the sky;
I shall see, I shall see, my own Land ere I die."

"Let me lean on your strength; I am feeble and old,
And one half of my heart is already stone cold.
Forty years work a change! When I first cross'd this sea
There were few on the deck that could grapple with me;
But my youth and my prime in Ohio went by,
And I'm come back to see the old spot ere I die."

'Twas a feeble old man, and he stood on the deck,
His arm round a kindly young mariner's neck,
His ghastly gaze fix'd on the tints of the east,
As a starveling might stare at the noise of a feast;
The morn' quickly rose, and reveal'd to his eye
The land he had pray'd to behold, and then die.

Green, green was the shore, though the year was near done;
High and hanghty the capes the white surf dash'd upon;
A grey ruin'd convent was down by the strand,
And the sheep fed afar, on the hills of the land.
"God be with you, dear Ireland!" he gasp'd with a sigh,
"I have lived to behold you—I'm ready to die."

He sunk by the hour, and his pulse 'gan to fail,
As we swept by the headland of storied Kinsale;
Off Ardigna bay, it came slower and slower,
And his corpse was clay-cold as we sighted Tramore.
At Passage we waked him, and now he doth lie
In the lap of the land he beheld but to die.

Mr. M'Gee contributes in all no less than thirty-six ballads to the collection before us, not one of them without merit—not one, we are sorry to add, sufficiently excellent to live.

Our remarks hitherto have referred to such of

the ballad-writers as have evidently been more or less the children of political occasion, and, Thomas Davis being already known and criticised, we have judged Mr. M'Gee the best worthy of notice. Of those minstrels here represented, who are more distinctively to be regarded as literary men, apart from politics, Samuel Ferguson certainly stands first; and, indeed, his name is perhaps the only one in the volumes which, on a strict scrutiny, could substantiate a claim to appear in any part of the list of English poets. His vigorous "Forging of the Anchor" and his exquisite "Fairy Thorn," might be bound, *honoris gratia*, in the same volume with the lyrics of Thomas Campbell; his "Willy Gilliland" is a caution (as they say in America) to Professor Aytoun, or ought to be; and his translations from the Irish are invariably picturesque and poetic. Poor Clarence Mangan—melancholy ruined opium-eater, whose death-in-life came to an end six years since in a Dublin hospital—had a wonderful rhyming faculty. New and difficult rhymes flowed from him like water from a spring; he translated admirably from the Irish, and his verse is always fluent and often striking.

B. Simmons, an elegant contributor to *Blackwood*, one of those whom Wilson's extravagant praises utterly failed to canonise (while one John Keats is somebody now!) was an Irishman by birth, and therefore we find him here. His polished lines, which alternately resemble Lord Byron and Mrs. Hemans, do not call for special remark. The name of "T. Irwin" is new; but its owner has been contributing, under initials, to the poet's corner of the *Nation* for some months past. There is promise in his writing, a picturesque bright touch now and again which lifts its artist from the crowd; his tastes are refined, and we guess he is an admirer of Beranger, and hope he is a young man. His *Gretna-green* ballad is a vivid night-picture, which we should quote but for its crudeness in parts. We entreat Mr. Irwin, if he will listen to us—which is far from likely—to study the masters of English poetry; shut his ears to the flattery of his own circle, wherever that may be drawn; and take to heart the conviction that if a poem is not written to last, and with fitting care, there is no use in writing it.

From among the few really characteristic Irish ballads in Mr. Hayes's collection (for the people, fortunately, care nothing for the songs of the newspaper-men), we glean the following, the original of which is thought to belong to the 17th century. It has a good and pathetic tune.

THE COUNTY OF MAYO.

(From the Irish.)

By GEORGE FOX.

On the deck of Patrick Lynch's boat I sat in woful plight,
Through my sighing all the weary day, and weeping all the night;

Were it not that fall of sorrow from my people forth I go,
By the blessed sun, 'tis royally I'd sing thy praise, Mayo!

When I dwelt at home in plenty, and my gold did much abound,
In the company of fair young maids the Spanish ale went round;

'Tis a bitter change from those gay days that now I'm forced to go,
And must leave my bones in Santa Cruz, far from my own Mayo.

They are alter'd girls in Irral now; 'tis proud they're grown and high,
With their hair-bags and their top-knots, for I pass their buckles by;

But it's little now I heed their airs, for God will have it so,
That I must depart for foreign lands, and leave my sweet Mayo.

'Tis my grief that Patrick Loughlin is not Earl in Irral still,
And that Bryan Duff no longer rules as Lord upon the hill;

And that Colonel Hugh Mac Grady should be lying dead and low;
And I sailing, sailing swiftly from the county of Mayo!

In the long list of modern minstrels that appears in Mr. Hayes's index, one name is altogether absent, which, though of recent rise, bids fair for a wider and more permanent fame than belongs to most Irish bards—we mean that of William Allingham: to whose poetry we counsel Mr. Hayes to incline his ear, unless its complete freedom from politics or partisanship be an insuperable objection.

In conclusion, we have to remark that the duty of Editor has been very imperfectly performed in the book before us. The notes are ill-placed, meagre, and indeed in most cases, we believe, only slovenly transcripts from other publications, without any correction of the most glaring errors. We shall give two instances for example. Prefixed to Banim's "Soggarth Aroon" is an extract from a letter of Lord Jeffrey, beginning

I read a very interesting little volume of "Irish Ballad Poetry" published by that poor Duffy, of the

Nation, who died so prematurely the other day. It is published in 1845, and as a part of "Duffy's Library of Ireland."

Now, "Duffy of the *Nation*" sailed for Australia some months ago, and, moreover, the "Library of Ireland" is published by James Duffy, of Wellington Quay, Dublin. Again, in a note to the "Haunted Castle" (for which the editor is of course responsible, no matter who penned it), we are informed that

Donegal Castle, the chief seat of the princely family of the O'Donnells, stands now in ruins, in the centre of the village of the same name, at the head of Donegal Bay. It was built in the fifteenth century, and shows, even in its decay, royal proportions.

The edifice now existing, in a ruined state, was erected by one of the English settlers who obtained possession of O'Donnell's territories in the reign of James the First.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The British Empire: Historical, Biographical, and Geographical. London and Glasgow: Richard Griffin and Company. 1856.

THE contents of this excellent work of reference are—firstly, an Introductory Sketch of the English Nation, by Professor Creasy; secondly, a Synopsis of British History, by Samuel Neil, Rector of Moffat Academy; thirdly, a Dictionary of British Biography, by various contributors; and, fourthly, a Geographical Dictionary of the British Empire, by Mr. Bryce. Professor Creasy's essay is a very skilful *resumé* of the origin and condition of the British nation, and both the biographical and geographical portions of the volume seem to be very accurately done; the historical synopsis, however, is an old acquaintance, and has been already reviewed by us under the form of the "Cyclopædia of Universal History," published by Messrs. Griffin during the early part of last year. As the errors which we then pointed at do not seem to have been corrected, and as many others which we have since discovered are still to be found, we must suppose that it has been transferred from the one work into the other without revision. As a work of reference is worse than useless unless it be prepared with the most scrupulous accuracy, we are certainly surprised that Messrs. Griffin should have neglected the opportunity afforded by a republication to have this synopsis carefully corrected. Here we have, as before, Tennyson's verses on the charge of the Light Brigade quoted *à propos* of Inkermann; erroneous dates for such recent events as the opening and closing of the Dublin Exhibition; the closing of the Preston Mills in 1853 is mentioned as throwing fifteen hundred persons out of employ; the probate of the will of Queen Charlotte in 1819 is converted into that of Queen Caroline, who was alive at the time. Such are a few specimens of the serious blunders with which this synopsis abounds.

Addison's Works. Vol. V. and VI. (Bohn's British Classics). London: Bohn.

Burke's Works. Vol. VI. (Bohn's British Classics). London: Bohn.

THESE complete their several series, and to Mr. Bohn the public are indebted for having for the first time placed within the reach of purchasers the works of Addison and of Burke, each in six volumes, at the cost of a few shillings.

The 5th and 6th volumes of Addison contain the freeholder, the Essay on the Christian Religion, his Play of "The Drummer," his papers in *The Tatler*, and his Letters, with a very copious Index to the entire work. The 6th volume of Burke's works contains his Tracts on the Popery Laws, Fragments and Notes of his Speeches in Parliament, the Hints for an Essay on the Drama, and his Abridgement of English History, extending from the Invasion of Julius Caesar to the reign of King John. This work also is recommended by a copious index, which enables the inquirer readily to refer to almost any subjects treated of in the six volumes.

The Law and Practice of Summary Convictions under the new Larceny Act and Juvenile Offenders Acts. By EDWARD W. COX, Esq., Editor of "Cox's Criminal Law Cases." London: Crookford.

THIS little work is written for the use of magistrates, whose jurisdiction has been so largely extended by the Act of last session. For their information, the author has introduced the practice under the new summary jurisdiction, with a short treatise on the law of larceny so far as it falls within that jurisdiction. The law to be dispensed by magistrates is then minutely stated; the three statutes, viz., the Summary Jurisdiction Acts and the Juvenile Offenders Acts, are given in full; and a copious index affords ready reference to the whole. It will materially aid justices in the discharge of their duties. It is a compact little book for the pocket.

The indefatigable Mr. Sowerby has issued two of a series of six parts—to contain the *Fern Allies*. The plan of the work is similar to that of his "British Ferns," to which it will form a most valuable supplement.

Rendell's Price Current and Garden Directory, though sold at a nominal price, has many features which render it attractive to the amateur gardener. Numerous original articles by practised pens, added to its varied useful reference-tables and lists, make it a most valuable guide to the improvement of the flower and kitchen gardens. Its portable size and neat typography are noticeable improvements.

PERIODICALS AND SERIALS.

THE New Year has brought to us one new magazine—*The Idler*. We have had too much personal experience of the difficulties of a first number to pronounce judgment upon any enterprise from such a specimen of it. But there is one characteristic for which we always seek in such a case: if we find it, we look to the future with hope; but if we find it not, we at once abandon all hope of success for it. This necessary qualification in a new periodical is *individuality*. It must be a novelty—differing from all others in some marked features, either of style, thought, or as embodying the views of some party, or sect, or class. We are sorry to say that *The Idler* fails in this. It is just like all the other magazines. It has no single characteristic peculiar to itself. There is no novelty in it. The writers are able, the articles are various in subject, and many of them well written; but this alone will not suffice, for it is not without better than the contemporaries whom it endeavours to supplant. The most promising contribution is Mr. Hannay's novel, "Bagot's Youth." But we question if that alone will save it, wanting originality.

With the new year come three of the quarterlies—the *Westminster*, the *National*, and the *London*. Where they all find buyers is a mystery we have sought in vain to solve. Are they supported by the book-clubs and circulating libraries? However this may be, here they are—an existing fact; for all have lived beyond the period of infancy, and are now advanced—the *Westminster* into maturity, the *London* into youth, and the *National* out of leading strings. Each, however, represents a different set of opinions. All are liberal, but each is of a different shade of liberalism. The *Westminster* is Radical in politics and Rationalistic in religion. The *London* is democratic also, but Presbyterian in its theology. The *National* hovers between different opinions in religion, openly declaring for none, while in politics it is *doctrinaire*, with radical leanings but middle-class attachments. All are clever—the *Westminster* being the most argumentative, the *National* the most brilliant, the *London* the

most vigorous. The great article in the *Westminster* is on "Military Education"—a searching analysis of the whole question, which has made quite a sensation in the political world. German literature has been ably handled in a review of the works of that half-mad poet Heinrich Heine. Classical literature has always received marked attention in this review; and in the new number is a powerful paper on "Athenian Comedy." We must repeat our regret that so much space should be wasted in short notices of new books which nobody reads, because this has been already anticipated by the literary journals. In a quarterly one looks for a higher kind of criticism. The general tone of the papers in the *London* is religious, as befits its origin and vocation, and they will be read with great pleasure by all who interest themselves in such topics. The best of them are on "The Religious History of Mankind;" on "Jerusalem and its Political Relations;" on the "Present Religious aspect of the World;" on "Donaldson's Book of Jasher;" and on "The Bampton Lecture." The *National* opens with a very vigorous article on Gibbon. Another remarkable paper is on "The Present State of France;" plain-spoken, suggestive, and which will make many a reader turn his thoughts to a subject which has not yet received the consideration in England which is due to its importance. The essay on Thackeray is clever, but not equal to the brilliant article on the same subject in the last number of the *Quarterly Review*. "The Life and Writings of Dr. T. Young," "The Spanish Conquest in America," "Atheism," and "Our Foreign Policy," are the topics treated of; but none with the vigour and freshness of those first noticed.

The January number of the *Edinburgh Philosophical Journal* returns to the much debated question on the plurality of worlds. Another paper of popular interest is "Professor Allman's Introductory Lecture to the Natural History Class." Essays on the Old Red Sandstone of Scotland, on the Leaf Insects, and on the Silurian Rocks of Norway, make this one of the most valuable numbers of the journal we have seen for a long time.

Blackwood opens the new year with the first chapters of a novel, the scene of which is laid in Spain, during the Peninsular war. The interminable currency question tediously occupies a space that leaves little for more interesting matter. Altogether, the number is unusually heavy.

The *Dublin University Magazine* is not affected by the change of proprietorship. The same editor and contributors preserve for it the same claims to popularity. "Love in Curl-papers" is a capital story; "Balancing the Books," by Slingsby, is clever; "The Dramatic Writers of Ireland" are continued; and, most attractive of all, there is a paper entitled "Twilight Musings of an Old Man," said to be by Thomas Hood. Can it be the Hood? It is in his manner.

The *Gentleman's Magazine* begins a new year of its green old age with more than its ancient vigour. There is a large collection of antiquarian lore, a copious necrology, and a history of the month.

The *Eclectic* is, as usual, distinguished for the variety and the excellent choice of its subjects, all of which are popular.—"The Pre-Raphaelites," "Mosses and Mountain Scenery," "the History of Piedmont," and "Cambridge Essays," being the most prominent and the best written.

Bentley gives chapters of Mr. Ainsworth's "Spendrift;" Mr. Costello contributes a tale of the times, entitled "The Dock Warrants; and Mr. C. Wilson "The Adventures of Bobbin the Bagman," &c.

The *Scottish Review* is a quarterly journal of the Teetotallers. But it mingles with its principal subject general literature—thus gilding the pill.

The *Ladies' Companion* adds to information on the fashions, various tales, essays, and poetry, that will amuse its readers.

The *Art Journal* begins its new volume with beautiful engravings of "Frost's L'Allegro," "Callow's Bay of Naples," two pictures in the Royal Collection, which have been exquisitely engraved. Callcott is the British artist whose works are reviewed this month, and four woodcuts illustrate the article. "The Country of Cuyp" is another paper full of curious information and profusely illustrated.

The 4th part of *Chambers's History of the Russian War* brings down the narrative to the operations in the Baltic in 1854. It has many illustrations.

The *Amateur* appears to be a sort of open house for all comers; hence, while some papers are good, others are execrable.

Hogg's Instructor opens with an excellent article on "The Pulpit and the Press." The "Leaves from the Note Book of an Old Gardener" are curious, and "Memoranda by a Marine Officer" are amusing.

The *Almanac of Science and Art* for 1856 (Chapman and Hall) contains a vast mass of information relating to art, science, and literature, as lists with particulars of all the societies, local schools of art, the prizes at the French Exhibition, and such like.

The *Post Magazine Almanac* continues to supply every kind of information relating to a surance offices. From it we learn that no less than sixty-four new offices were registered last year. What an enormous amount of ruin to families does not this portend, for it is impossible that one in twenty can succeed; there is not room for them, and what misery follows their failure! We learn also that since the Joint Stock Registration Act, 513 assurance companies have been projected, of which 228 only were established. 130 have ceased to exist; there have been six amalgamations; 45 have transferred their business; and 17 have been subjected to the unpleasant process of being wound up in Chancery.

FOREIGN LITERATURE.

THE CRITIC ABROAD.

FIRDUST, the Persian poet, declares in one of his verses that "no washing will make a Tater white." That which was true of these people a thousand years ago holds true to the present day. The Tater, Rommani, Zinzali, Bohemian, Gipsy, Caird, or by whatever other name he may be known (and his name is legion), is still an untamed, unwashed mortal, desperately opposed to every attempt to draw him within the verge of civilised society. Of the Taters, Fante, or Gipsies of Norway, we gave some account in a former volume of *THE CRITIC* (1st May, 1852); and now we propose to let the reader know something of the Bohemians or Gipsies of the Pays Basque, on the authority of Francisque Michel. Notwithstanding the inquiries of Grellmann, Borrow, Roberts, and other writers of recent times, respecting the morals, habits, and language of these denizens of the forest glade, these squatters in green lanes, these peculators of fat hens and hedgehog-eaters by repute, these tinkers who will clout your pan so ingeniously of a night that it shall not contain water of a morning, much has still to be learned of their ways and psychological peculiarities, and consequently, every contribution to this effect must be received with a welcome. M. Michel considers that there are two ways of presenting the life of the Bohemians, or *Cascarots* as they are otherwise called, of the Pays Basque. The first, founded on tradition and the conjectures bequeathed from one generation to another, offers obscure results, generally contradictory and absurd, forming altogether an incoherent mass of matter, of service to no one

but the romancer. The second consists in representing the *Cascarots* as they are to be seen every day in the villages of La Soule and Lower Navarre, in the highways and in the forests. Thus seen, the Bohemians lose the marvellous which attaches to their name; the serious observer, above all, is struck with their degradation, and the Christian philosopher with the truth how a man deprived of law, moral and divine, is the most ignoble, the basest creature in the universe.

Formerly the Bohemians counted themselves by tribes; they acknowledged a supreme chief, whom they called *natria*—that is, the pure, the accomplished man. At present it is doubtful whether this name is preserved. They have no longer social classification—no real association even. Dispersed here and there, want alone groups them hap-hazard into bands without any bond of union. Under certain exceptional circumstances, when some common danger threatens them, or they have some important expedition to carry out, they organise themselves in bands; the most audacious, the most cunning, is proclaimed chief, or king, and his female partner receives the title of queen. When the necessity ceases, they disperse themselves anew, and continue their wandering and vagabond life, which is only one tissue of thefts, laziness, and shameful disorder. They have no remembrance of a past; no historical tradition exists among them; they have no other ideas than those which are necessary to their degraded existence. They live on from day to day without a thought of God or of the soul: they laugh, in practice at least, at the distinctions made between virtue and vice; honour, respect, have no influence over them; in a word, the Basque Bohemian is the most arrant cheat, the most suspicious, the most rampant, and the most shameless of animals.

The gipsy-woman is not the gipsy of the novel.

She is a mass of travelling rags, dirty, squalid, forbidding. She is generally attended by a troop of half-naked brats, adepts in begging. She is seldom accompanied by the *pater familias*, who is generally well clad, and who does a small business in cattle-curing while daylight lasts. But turn into a bye-lane at nightfall, and you will encounter, in an isolated spot, a group of beings in human form—men, women, children, some extended on their backs, others squatting on their haunches, occupied like Murillo's beggars. Certain women are preparing in an old stolen cauldron a horrid mixture of vegetables and carrion, the dainty fare of their mates and small ones. Wholesome food they find by artifice. Often, it is known, they poison the cattle of the farmer, and for fair words obtain a carcass which would be a vomit to the Christian. Pressed by want, these Basque gipsies have been known to disinter, and regale themselves on, animals which have died of disease. What animal it matters not. They disinfect it by means of herbs known only to themselves. They are far from being fastidious; nothing comes amiss to them. They loathe nothing; nothing hurts them. Let the Basque gipsy have a hearty meal, and the earth may rotate as it pleases. He is a fawning creature where he wishes to make a friend or to appease an enemy; but fearful in his vengeance. He places some value on his own life; none on the lives of others. You may buy his dagger or his bludgeon at your own price. The poor fellow, too, is fond of his liquor—too fond. The man drinks, the woman drinks, the child drinks. The means are found in clipping mules, making straw

hate, tinkering pots, and making panniers. Begging is the last resource, and then they assume every form and manner of disguise, passing themselves off as distressed curés, or sisters of mercy, as it may suit. Their dwellings, during the most rigorous seasons, are the trunks of hollow trees, the huts abandoned by shepherds, lonely barns, and, during the more temperate seasons, the bare ground and the open sky. Here the humane physician finds them when they are sick. Formerly they had among them a famous recipe for curing themselves and others, and they rarely had resource to medicine, leaving all to nature and a good constitution; now, however, they have resource to the science and humanity of their fellow-creatures, and these are very rarely deaf to their appeal. M. Michel appears to doubt whether any bond of marriage exists among the Cascarots. A man and a woman, he says, if they are agreed, live together. They own mutual fidelity while thus associated; but on the least dispute they separate. "I wish to have more to do with you," one will say to the other, "I shall look out for another partner." "I shall do the same," the other will reply; and soon new unions take place, without the intervention of priest or parson.

A Bohemian, well-known in the canton of Saint-Palais, has had seven husbands; thus the mother will associate with the husband of her daughter, and vice versa. There is no dispute on such occasions, except among the women, and then only when one of them suspects that her husband has been gained over by the artifices of a rival; for where the separation has been the result of incompatibility of character, the parties withdraw without animosity or display of temper: they become as great strangers to one another as if they had never met. Conjugal affection cannot exist very strongly among them; and if the gipsy wife weeps for the dead husband, she weeps because she had in him a material support. Like the gipsy all over the world, the religious sentiment is not strongly developed in the Cascarot. Of God and the soul it is doubtful whether he has very distinct notions. His existence is essentially material and brutal, and his ideas seldom rise above his natural sensations. Yet, as in Norway, the Basque gipsies are all baptised, some more than once. There is policy in this, as it often enables them to live at the expense of others. They know well that in the country it is considered a most heinous offence not to be provided with sponsors, especially so by the peasantry; hence a Bohemian when near her confinement installs herself in the village, and throws herself upon the bounty of the richer proprietors of the place. These on their part, according to usage, provide nourishment for the mother and linen for the newly-born child. Thus every child, at its birth, procures for its mother better clothing, indispensable succours, and the child itself, after having been presented at the baptismal font, will have food and shelter from time to time, and in its most pressing necessities. The Cascarots feed on carrion; but do they feed on their own dead? This question has often been asked. Can human nature, even under the most pressing forms of want, descend to such a point of degradation as to exhumate and devour the dead? It is hardly to be believed. The very thought of such a thing is loathsome. Grellmann, however, who quotes his authorities, appears to believe that the crime of anthropophagy is not rare among the Bohemians. It is certainly true that they rarely claim the assistance of the grave-digger and a place in the burial ground. But the reason is very simple, M. Michel considers. They never haunt inhabited places but when in good health, and with the view of following their usual pursuits. There, if death surprises one of their number, the usual formalities are attended to, and the body is laid in the common cemetery; but if, on the contrary, he dies in a field or in a wood, his companions, who have no great wish to appear before the local authorities and to submit to an examination which might have unpleasant results, hasten to consign to the earth the remains which it claims, and are then as silent respecting them as the grave which contains them.

And now, having said so much of the false Bohemians, let us say a word or two for the genuine. Considerable literary activity appears to prevail in Bohemia. Besides many works and periodicals which appear annually, in the language of the country, efforts are constantly being made to spread wide the treasures of Bohemian literature, by means of translations into some of the better-known languages of Europe. Among

the most successful of translators appears Joseph Wenzig. In a recent number of *THE CRITIC* we gave a few specimens from his *Neuen Rath*. We turn to the work now, to extract a few homely sentences, penned by Paul von Parubie, with the view of introducing the apophthegmatical wisdom of another writer.

He who upon himself can play, will have his music every day. He who for strangers pours all forth, knows nothing of his proper worth. Buy the steed, if you be wise, not with your ears but with your eyes. He who lives by the clapper of the mill may save himself the trouble of playing on the fiddle. The wise, without fear of mishap, may even baneful wolf's-milk lap. Crooked ways are roundabout, straightforward ways are ever shortest. The cow that lows the most gives the least milk. Old sins have a new taste for children. He who from plagues would ne'er be free, let him for others surety be. The ass to Paris travelled fair, but that ne'er made him fine steed there. Learn to bear with good will in your young days, would you not have to bear against your will in your old days.

The wisdom of M. J. Petit-Senn is expressed in more classical language. But it is right, in the first place, that the reader should know that Petit-Senn is the great poet and journalist of watch-making Geneva, the patron of rising talent, and one whose purse and whose door has often been opened to genius struggling with misfortune. He was at one time editor of *La Fantaisie*, a satirical paper, which did good service in the cause of Genevan literature, administering occasionally certain wholesome raps on the knuckles of those who had no souls above pinions, main-springs, and escapements. A collection of his papers, which have appeared from time to time in the Parisian journals, has been made and published under the title of *Bluettes et Boutades*. Of these fits and starts some are grave, some gay, some keenly sarcastic, others kindly and genial. They betray a mind of considerable powers of penetration and reflection. In the nature of maxims we encounter in these pages such as the following:

A man discontented with all the world is rarely satisfied with himself. We retain men better by the ill we can do them than the good we can do them. Love is an extreme: to love less is already to love no more. People who declare that they belong to no party most assuredly are not of ours. Remorse is the shadow of crime: like the shadow, it lengthens at the decline of day. We find ourselves more witty in thinking what we might have said than in remembering what we have said. We are always very expressive of our thanks for the favours about to be rendered to us. When personal interest pleads before the tribunal of our conscience it always gains either the cause or the judge. As soon as we perceive that a *parvenue* is rich, we perceive sooner still that he has not been always such. It seems that we diminish a fault in abridging the time taken to commit it. Who gives does a good action; who lends, a bad one. Conscience is like the sea: to perceive the bottom there must be a calm. If hypocrisy were to die, modesty would at least put on half-mourning. The ills that prevent us from living are more frightful than those which cause us to die.

Here we take leave of the Genevan to make a visit to Berlin. Ten years ago appeared in that city the first volume of a new edition of the works of Frederick the Great. The first part of the twenty-seventh volume has only recently appeared, and its great interest is its containing a large correspondence, hitherto unpublished, of the royal author with his sisters. The correspondence, which embraces four hundred and thirty-five letters, of which three hundred and forty-six are in the King's own hand-writing, commences with his letters to his eldest sister, Wilhelmine, the celebrated Margravine of Baireuth, and bear witness to the tender affection he bore towards her. It was of her he wrote so feelingly to Voltaire—"I was beaten at Hochkirch the moment that my worthy sister expired." This affection was reciprocated by Wilhelmine, although at one time there was a considerable coolness between the brother and sister, and her "Mémoires de Brandebourg" prove how bitter and unjust she could be, when acting under the influence of an easily excitable temper. Herr Preuss, the editor of this correspondence, has an interesting preface connected with those memoirs, showing among other things that the first edition of 1810 is not to be altogether relied upon for accuracy. The Margravine, he observes, always appears to have looked on the dark side of things. She gives a caricature of society, and, in the sketch, we have never a clear, placid representation. The memoirs preserve no kindly remembrance of her

friends, or of the guides of her infancy. She says little respecting her daughter, almost nothing of her subjects of Baireuth, and the opinions they fostered with respect to the reigning house. The memoirs have a decidedly satirical character, but want that dignity and moderation which we should have expected from a lady of her rank. She seeks to gratify her own spleen and to amuse the reader, giving comic sketches and racy anecdotes of courtiers, and even of their domestics. "She does not at all avoid," says the editor, "indelicate stories respecting the court of Dresden, such as Frederick William I.'s love for the Fräulein von Pannwitz. But, on the whole, the memoirs are so well arranged and so lively that they fascinate us as would a good romance, to which they have more than one resemblance." Frederick's correspondence is not so remote as to deprive it of a considerable amount of literary interest and historical importance.

M. Poissonier, professor of French literature at Bucharest, has published an interesting little work on the Tsigan Slaves of the Danube—*Les Esclaves tsiganes dans le principauté danubienne*. Along with much curious historical matter, he affords us a view of the social condition of the Tsigans, their inner life, their occupations, their vices, and their virtues. He takes us into the presence of a new people. Those of Moldavia and Wallachia he divides into two classes—the nomadic class and the sedentary class. Except those that are attached to the court, that is, to the personal service of a master, all are subject to an annual poll-tax, which is based upon the skill and trade of the Tsigan.

The Tsigans of the court are generally corrupt and lazy. Inaction and the looseness of oriental manners act strongly upon impressionable and ignorant natures. They are ordinarily classed by nests (or families); great and small, young and old, all have in the house of the master a special function: coachman, town-servant, chibouque-lighter, water-carrier, cook. The women are laundresses. It is not rare to find in the dwelling of a boyard several nests of Tsigans, of which the divers members will amount to forty or fifty. The master feeds them, clothes them; often, even in presents, they will derive a salary far superior to that obtained by domestic servants in France. Their duties leave much time on their hands, which they mostly employ in sleeping in the court-yards or on the threshold of the door of their masters.

In youth the Tsigan is not deficient in intelligence, but for want of culture he loses it, and grows up deprived. The girls are described as pretty, but it is a prettiness which soon fades. The nomadic Tsigans are the most nervous and active, though exposed to many hardships. They exercise a great variety of crafts. Among the principal are,

The Zidari (masons), who encamp habitually near their work-sheds, in cabins composed of some scaffolding materials. Each cabin contains one nest, or family. A pig, attached to a stake, wallows in the mire near the nest, while a multitude of naked children crawl and gambol about under the surveillance of an old Tsigan, who peaceably smokes her lechesh, in a pipe with a wooden tube or a reed. The fare of the Zidari is mamalique, the entrails of animals and onions. The pig is a reserve for winter, when no work is to be had.

Account is next given of the Spoitori (tinkers); of the Kirpatchi (cobblers), who pursue their calling at the corners of streets of the Roudari or Aourari, who extract gold from river-sand; of the Kovatch (blacksmith), who marches attended by a companion who carries his bellows; and of the Laoutari (musicians), who are in great numbers in the principalities, and who are generally great favourites, cheering with their songs and rude instrumental music the toiling workman and the exhausted villager. The wives and daughters of the nomadic Tsigans are equally employed in various occupations. Some sell brooms, others scrub and wash; some are engaged in knitting, others in carding flock. M. Poissonier affords much curious information respecting these singular people.

Of the Slaves generally, and of the Polish Slaves in particular, the celebrated Polish archaeologist, Lelewel, has published a learned work, the translated title of which is "The Worship of Idols among the Slaves and in Poland." The conclusions he arrives at are, that the Poles were monotheists, and that all their mythology is pure romance. Like our Teutonic ancestors, the Slaves had their legends and popular superstitions; but are no more open to the charge of idolatry for believing in black spirits and white than the former were for their belief in imps and fairies. There was among the Slaves, as there

was among most ancient nations, a marked tendency to personify the forces of nature and the affections of the soul. The world to the Slave is peopled with an infinitude of good and evil spirits, black and white, of every sex and every form. There are the *Vilas*, the gracious nymphs of the Danube; the seductive *Russalkas*, or fairies of the Ukrain; the hideous *Stryges* and the *Jendze*, or furies. Then, there are the goblins and vampires, and the *Kukmoros*, hideous night-hags; and the *Blendice*, which may be rendered Jill-o'-the-wisps, they being feminine, and the *Werptemice*, giddy fairies who break the necks of travellers. There are, farther, water-spirits, and wind-spirits, and even *Kolatski* or rapping spirits. Lelewel seeks for the primitive and monotheistic religion of the Poles in an analysis of their language, and traces it to its eastern origin.

Foreign Books recently published.

[Where prices are given the franc has been valued at a shilling, and the thaler at three shillings, as in importing books duty and carriage have to be reckoned.]

FRENCH.

- Aners, A. d'. Le printemps de la vie humaine. Nouvelles. La Sensitiva. Le Camélia. Marguerite. Gillet et Lis. Le Bouquet de myosotis. Paris. 18mo. 3s. 6d.
- Aroux, E. Clief de la Comédie anticatholique de Dante Alighieri, pasteur de l'Eglise albigeoise dans la ville de Florence, affilié à l'Ordre du Temple, donnant l'explication du langage symbolique des fidèles d'amour dans les compositions lyriques, romans et épopées chevaleresques des troubadours. Paris. 8vo. 2s. 6d.
- Carloités des inventions et découvertes. Paris. 18mo. 3s.
- Duléry, L'Abbé. Rochechouart: Histoire, légendes, archéologie. Limoges. 8vo. 9s.
- Dictionnaire de la Sagesse populaire. Troisième et dernière encyclopédique. Paris. 8vo. 7s.
- Dupery, Justin. Etudes et portraits. Paris. 8vo.
- Laboulaye, Edouard. Etudes contemporaines sur l'Allemagne et les pays slaves. Le Partage de la Pologne. Georgel et Kosuth. Les Serbes, leurs poésies, leurs contes. Paris. 12mo. 9s. 6d.
- Maslatrie, L. de. Fragments d'histoire de Chypre. Paris. 8vo.
- Maynard, Felix. Souvenirs d'un Zouave devant Sebastopol. Paris. 16mo. 1s.
- Montépin, X. de. L'Idiot. 2 vols. Paris. 8vo.
- Nerval, Gérard de. La Bohème galante. Paris. 18mo. 1s.
- Poissonier, Alfred. Les esclaves tsiganes dans les principautés danubiennes; avec une préface de M. Philartète Chasles. Paris. 8vo. 1s.
- Perrens, F. T. Jérôme Savonarole, d'après les documents originaux, &c. 2nd ed. Paris. 8vo. 3s. 6d.
- Roye, F. et Texte. Histoire moderne depuis la paix de Westphalie jusqu'à la révolution française. Paris. 12mo. 4s.
- Saint-Amant. Œuvres complètes. Nouvelle édition publiée sur les manuscrits inédits et les éditions anciennes; précédée d'une notice et accompagnée de notes par Ch. Livet. Tom. I. Paris. 16mo. 10s.

GERMAN.

- Alexis, W. Vaterländische Romane. Berlin. 8vo. 9d.
- Arany, J. Toldi's Abent. Berlin. 8vo. 3s.
- Bunnen, C. J. Die Zeichen der Zeit. (The Signs of the Times). 2 vols. Leipzig. 8vo. 3s. 6d.
- Hackländer, F. W. Ein Winter in Spanien. (A Winter in Spain). 2 vols. Leipzig. 8vo. 6s. 6d.
- Russdorf, E. von. Die Frage des Lebensverlängerung. (On the Prolongation of Life). Berlin. 8vo. 16s.
- Rosegarten, J. G. L. Wörterbuch. &c. (Dictionary of Low-German, ancient and modern). 1st part. Leipzig. 8vo. 3s.
- Schrader, A. Die Todeskandidat (The Candidate for Death: a Romance). 6 vols. Leipzig. 8vo. 18s.

AMERICAN.

- Annals of San Francisco, with Memoirs of some Prominent Citizens. 8vo. 21s.
- Lapham, J. A., Antiquities of Wisconsin. 4to. 31s.
- Trumbull, J. A., Public Records of the Colony of Connecticut prior to 1655. New York. 8vo. 12s.

PERSIAN.

- Aboul Kasim Firdousi. Le Livre des Rois. Publié, traduit, et commenté par M. Jules Mohl. Tome IV. fol. Imprimerie impériale.

FRANCE.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Paris, Jan. 14.

Is a taste for classical literature reviving in Paris? Without venturing to assert that such is the case, it is impossible to shut one's eyes to the fact that expensive editions of the classics, and translations of the classic, are becoming far more numerous than formerly, and an attempt to revive the classic drama, which has been made by M. Alexandre Dumas with characteristic audacity, bids fair to be successful. All this must mean something—and that something is probably that the public, tired of the meretricious stuff which has been now so long in fashion, feels a yearning for something more elevated than the amours of courtesans with low knaves or tame "pigeons." To begin by the first work in point of merit, we must give the palm to a work published by George Sand in the *Revue de Paris*. It is called *Le Diable aux Champs*—a strange title, an explanation

for which a careful perusal of the work has not enabled us to discover. The *dramatis personæ*—for it is written in the form of a play or dialogue—embrace not only "men and women," the actors on the great stage of life, but the *fera natura*, the poultry in the barn, and the watch-dog, whose barkings discourse, if not most eloquent music, at least the poetry of a fantastic world where all creatures are of an order more perfect than fate has ordained them to be on our sublunary globe. The actors are Diane, a capricious Countess, warm-hearted but fickle, destitute of principle, and with a slight touch of insanity. The author describes her as a *lionne*; and represents her as a daring horse-woman, a partaker of liquors rather "stronger than water," and a smoker of cigars. This amiable person lives in her own chateau in a country where the inhabitants unite a deal of simplicity to an amount of shrewdness which are seldom met with mixed in those proportions in real life. Her admirer Count Gerard lives in a neighbouring chateau. Although he is ruined, and she has a very large fortune, his love is quite disinterested; but the sentiment she feels for him is far from causing her sleepless nights, or the usual accompaniments a violent passion always excites in the breast of a real heroine. The cause of her indifference for the count is perhaps a certain "Florence," who some time before has entered the services of Diane as a gardener. To this votary of the God of Gardens, however, Sir Joseph Paxton himself can hardly bear comparison. Florence is the son of a man of fortune; he has made botany his favourite study; and, having reduced himself to destitution by paying his father's debts, has turned gardener. The gentleman, however, is clearly seen through the labourer's blouse, as he is a well-looking fellow. Mme. Diane forthwith commences a flirtation with him, in which our friend Florence shows himself a worthy *émule* of Joseph Andrews. He contrives to render this noble mistress a most essential service. A Mlle. Myrto, of whose character we shall say no more than that it will not bear scrutiny—Myrto is a cast-off mistress of Count Gerard's, and she comes down "special," as the lawyers say, to the country to prevent his marriage with the Countess Diane, by showing him some highly-compromising letters that lady has been imprudent enough to write to previous admirers, and that by some mischance have come into her hands. She is not, however, destitute of fairness. She warns the Countess of her intentions, and Florence undertakes the task of inducing her to give them up. This he achieves by a series of highly moral reprimands, in the course of which he lights so powerful a passion in the breast of the courtesan, that she promises to deny him nothing—an offer of which, much to her disappointment, he avails himself only to obtain the letters of the Countess. A great many characters, all of them drawn with that beauty of delineation and that perfection of style which distinguishes Mme. Sand, are also introduced; but they are not essential for the description of the plot of the novel. One of them, an old philosopher and moralist, of the name of Jacques, is in particular a perfect *chef-d'œuvre*. The brute creation are only brought in here and there, after the fashion of the chorus in the Greek drama. To give an idea, however, of the language Mme. Sand puts into their mouths, we cannot do better than subjoin one of these animal chorusses, which forms the conclusion of *Le Diable aux Champs*:

LES ARABIGNES.

Une, deux; une, deux; d'un bout à l'autre filons, filons, travaillons, il fait sombre.

Travaillons pour qu'un jour naissant nos toiles nouvelles soient tendues. On a détruit aujourd'hui notre ouvrage; on a ruiné nos magasins, et traîné nos filets dans la boue. N'importe, n'importe! Une, deux filons!

Que tant dorme on veille, que le soleil s'allume on s'éteigne, il faut filer; une, deux d'un angle à l'autre. Tissons, tissons, croisons les fils; le travail console et repare!

Tissons, filons, prenons les angles. Et vous qui détruisez le travail des jours et des nuits; vous qui croyez vous dégouter de notre œuvre; balayez, ravagez, brisez. Une, deux, toujours, toujours, filons, tissons; et travaillons jusqu'à l'aurore.

Dans les vieux coins, dans l'abandon et la poussière, nuit et jour la pauvre araignée grise tisse la trame de son existence. Active, patiente, menue, adroit, agile, une, deux! la pauvre araignée persevere. On la chasse, on la ruine, on la poursuit, ou la méprise; une, deux, la pauvre araignée recommence.

Pour l'empêcher de travailler il faut tuer la pauvre araignée. Mais cherchez donc nos petits arufs, cachés là-haut dans le plafond, dans l'ombre et la poussière. Le soleil reviendra toujours pour les faire éclore; et l'araignée si tôt sortie de l'œuf, reprendra la tâche sans commencement et sans fin, la tâche patiente que Dieu protège. Une, deux! Joignons les angles: tissons, filons, jusqu'à l'aurore.

M. Artaud, one of the most accomplished Greek scholars France can boast of, and to whose industrious pen are due the best French translations of Euripides and Sophocles, has just published a translation of the comedies of Aristophanes. Like his previous works, M. Artaud's new production has merit; but to translate them into French, or, indeed, into any modern language excepting German, we hold to be a downright impossibility—especially when the translation is intended for a general reader. To make oneself thoroughly acquainted with Aristophanes requires a profound knowledge of Greek history; to appreciate to what degree his pieces are disfigured with filth and indecency of the most loathsome description requires a knowledge of Greek, or

at least a knowledge of Latin. But will any scholar assert that, with the notions of morality prevalent at the present day, it is possible to render the *Lystrata*, for instance, into French or English with any degree of accuracy? M. Artaud had a difficulty to contend with in this respect which he could not possibly surmount. As for the chorusses, which form the noblest monument of Greek extant, he has also failed in conveying any idea of their force and poetry. Only two men in France could do it—Victor Hugo and Alfred de Musset; the first in verse, the second in prose; and notwithstanding his profound scholarship, M. Artaud, as a writer, is surpassed by them.

Quantum lenta solent inter viburnum cupressi.

While on the subject of classic translations, it may be mentioned that at a literary *soirée*, a few nights ago, a young *littérateur* read some passages of the *Hecuba* of Euripides, translated into English verse, that met with the success which civility always commands among a private audience. The only merit of the translation is its exactness, and the accuracy with which the idiomatic expressions of the Greek are rendered in English. As a specimen, we subjoin the version of the chorus of captive Trojan maidens—*αἶψα, τῶντας αἶψα*—which, if we are not mistaken, concludes the second act. It runs thus:—

Breeze that from the sea dost blow,
Wafting hither many a prow,
Swiftly sailing through the sea,
Whither, whither lead'st thou me?
Say, under what proud master's sway
Shall I, a slave, be borne away?
Wilt bear me to the Doric shore,
Or Phthia, where with mighty roar
The Apidanus, torrent-fed,
Dashing through his rock-strewn bed,
Wends his way to fertile fields,
Where Ceres golden harvests yields?

Or shall the sea-dividing oar
Bear me a captive to the shore
Where, 'neath the palm and laurel shade,
Her sacred twins Latona laid?
Shall I, 'mongst Delian maidens fair,
Sing the gold-fillet-bounden hair
Of great Artemis, chaste as snow,
The goddess of the silver bow?

Or else in Pallas' hallowed dome,
Shall Fate in Athens place my home?
Shall I with many-colour'd thread
O'er the saffron peplos spread
Minerva's car and neighing steed?
Or else the Titan's giant breed,
Whom Zeus Kronidas in his ire
O'erthrows with scorching blast of fire.

Alas! how sad my children's fate!
My fatherland how desolate!
Where stately palace stood of yore
Lies smoking ruin, drench'd with gore
Of Troy's slain sons, and all the land
Quakes, spear-enlaved by Grecian band.
And I, a captive lone and lorn,
Far from my native mountains borne,
From nuptial couch I seek the grave,
Asia remains to Europe slave.

The piece produced by M. Alexandre Dumas at the Porte St. Martin, under the title of *L'Orestie*, brings to mind the title of Mr. Cobden's pamphlet. One cannot help exclaiming "What next?—and next?" Time and space, and the book being only just published, prevent our treating it as it deserves: we will therefore reserve it as a *bonne bouche* for our next communication, when we intend disbing it up for your readers, to see what amount of talent, vanity, conceit, ignorance, and audacity, make up that extraordinary writing-machine called Alexandre Dumas.

AMERICA.

Modern Pilgrims: Showing the Improvements in Travel, and the Newest Methods of Reaching the Celestial City. By GEORGE WOOD. Boston: Phillips, Sampson, and Co. New York: J. C. Derby. London: Trübner. 1855.

PERHAPS it would be unfair to call this a parody upon Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress," but it certainly comes too near it to excite our unqualified approbation. The author has aimed at writing the allegory over again, such as he imagines Bunyan would have written it had he lived in these days. A fashionable party of wealthy young persons from the Fifth Avenue perform the pilgrimage to the Celestial City, and find the road wonderfully changed since Christian's time. There is a railroad to the realms of bliss, with cars lined with velvet for the rich, and second-class carriages for the poor. The Wicket-gate is changed into an Arc de Triomphe, and Apollyon has grown into a fashionable *roué* of boundless wealth and fastidious taste. Mr. Interpreter is quite an altered man, and Vanity Fair is full of all the allurements of modern life. The allegory is worked out in a style not altogether destitute of merit, and if it were quite new we might perhaps have awarded to the author some amount of positive praise. But, unfortunately, the grand old original is ever rising up to view, and we must confess that the copy suffers terribly by the comparison. The sublime simplicity of the style, the sustained interest of the fable, and the solemn tone of religious feeling, which characterise Bunyan's noble work, are all missing here.

ITALY.

(FROM OUR ITALIAN CORRESPONDENT.)

Public Institutions—Art and the Drama at Turin.

BEFORE quitting Turin, I have wished to send you some notice of its public institutions, which seem to me at this period peculiarly interesting, because reflecting in themselves the realities of a great national movement. Even those the character of which is artistic, in a metropolis never yet distinguished as one of art's centres, evince the desire and energetic pursuit of improvement in that *animus* whose commencements have rendered the small state of Sardinia now, assuredly, one of the most interesting in Europe. I have just visited the Art Academy, founded by Charles Albert in 1833, which the incredible neglect of Mr. Murray's literary purveyor has left without mention in his well-used *vade mecum*—"Handbook for Northern Italy." This large and handsome edifice contains schools, open gratuitously, for the several walks of art, for the nude and for costume, which two latter continue ordinarily for two hours, and, during the competition for prizes, six, every day; also a numerous collection of casts from the antique and from architectonic subjects; many original works by alumni and professors; and a small but choice gallery of ancient paintings. The attention is first attracted to a series of lithographs, imitating chalk drawing, that hang round two small rooms, and display the progress of art from Cimabue to the great masters of the seventeenth century, each with dates of birth and death. The works by the pupils of this establishment struck me as, for the most part, in better feeling than the generality of productions of the day in Rome or Naples; especially the following were those that impressed me as earnest of higher attainment for the school of Piedmont. "Dante and Virgil meeting the shade of Francesca da Rimini and her lover," a fine and even awe-striking treatment of this pathetic subject; "Belisarius, old and blind, conducted by a boy," a well-conceived picture, of rich mellow colouring, and most touching expression in the helpless desolation of the aged man, as he clasps to his breast the beautiful innocent being he leans upon: the former of these pictures by Capisani, the latter by Borne, both of Turin. The landscapes of Bagetti, presented by his widow in 1842, display imagination and poetic feeling; and among the sculptures, a statue of Ajax in act of combat, by Pierotti, is the most spirited (though in this walk, I must observe, the superiority of Rome over all other Italian cities more convincingly asserts itself the more experience extends). In the suite appropriated to the most precious, the antique treasures of this academy, is a room entirely surrounded by the cartoons of Gaudenzio Ferrari (born 1484 in Valdugia, principally engaged at Vercelli where Giovenone was his first master, afterwards a student under Perugino and Raphael, deceased 1550).

Till one has visited the Piedmontese States it is impossible to appreciate the technical ability or devotional feeling of this laborious artist, whose subjects are almost exclusively sacred, and numerous oil or fresco works by whom, on a large scale, adorn ancient churches as well as the Royal Gallery of Turin. These cartoons are mostly the originals of frescoes on various consecrated walls, and among them, one

of the finest, the "Beatification of the Magdalene," is intrinsically valuable, owing to the fact that the finished fresco, in an old church at Vercelli, is now so decayed that here only can the artist's conception be fully apprehended. The glorified penitent soars heavenward, her long hair floating round her whole person like a veil, though her attitude is that of one standing; a group of angels support her on clouds; exalted thus, she yet adores, in calm intensity of rapturous emotion. Gaudenzio's angels have beauty, but scarcely above the human. Altogether, this valuable series leaves an impression of his genius as grand, religious, and truthful, emancipated from the hard asceticism of the Middle Ages, and worthy of a place among the great restorers. In the last cabinet hangs the gem of this collection, the Madonna, called that "of Loreto," by Raphael. This picture, on panels, was purchased by the King about ten years ago, and is supposed to have been painted for the *Santa Casa* where it remained at Loreto till the epoch of French spoliation: anticipating which it is believed to have been ingeniously painted over, and deposited in some place of concealment; subsequently to have passed into the hands of the Della Rovere family, who found it at Venice, and by the last representative of a decayed branch of that house, or by his executors, to have been sold for 800 francs, and finally purchased for Charles Albert by the Marquis Spinola, the director of this Academy, who, recognising it as a Raphael, compensated the last owner by a pension of 500 francs per annum, and caused the obscured painting to be restored in its pristine beauty. From that nobleman himself I have heard this story; and from a professor of the Academy the expression of doubt whether the overcoating has yet been totally removed, and the report that the authenticity of this picture is questioned by some, who suspect it to be the work of Giulio Romano, from a design only of Raphael. Certain it is that a picture in the Louvre, the fac simile of this, has been no longer designated in the catalogue (as previously) "a Raphael," since French connoisseurs, whose decision was admitted, pronounced this to be the original. Whatever its claims, the Turin picture is a most lovely and poetic creation; the mother, full of tenderness and quiet unutterable happiness, raises one arm holding a gauze veil over the child, who is stretched on a couch in front and playfully extends his hands towards her, while Joseph contemplates the group from a dark background. The rosy sportiveness and expression of awakening life in the child are exquisite; and in the mother's countenance it is wonderful what meanings are conveyed, though the eyes are almost veiled by their lids. The rich red of the virgin's dress, and her blue mantle worn like a scarf, have good effect. Perfectly preserved in all parts (whether the second coating adhere to some or not), the outlines of the entire group, drawn strongly with a pencil, may be traced on looking near. Next to the Raphael hangs a picture of scarcely inferior attractions—"The Holy Family, with St. Anna"—a large and exquisitely-finished cartoon of Leonardo da Vinci. The arrangement of this group, the young mother seated on the aged mother's knees, seems unnatural; but nothing could surpass the expression of sunny yet reflective happiness with which both regard the sports of the Divine child, who is playing with a lamb on Mary's lap. The

upper suite of rooms in this building is occupied by a larger collection of paintings, the donation in 1828, of Monsignor Moss, a late esteemed prelate, to whom a monument was designed by Marochetti, but never yet executed, though exhibited in an engraving which hangs here. This collection has not a few works of great masters: by Gaudenzio Ferrari, "The Disciples questioning the Saviour," "Lord, show us the Father;" a remarkable group of three figures, the size of life, but rather spoilt by the transcription of the question and answer on scrolls, across the picture;—by Vandyck, "St. Sebastian attended by Angels," who present flowers and palms to the yet living Martyr after he has been shot by arrows;—a large, beautiful, and affecting picture by Rubens, "Pan with a group of children, and a tiger suckling her young;"—by Guido, "the youthful Christ and St. John conversing," a strikingly suggestive and original work;—by Francia, "St. John Baptist," a fine specimen of his tenderness in feeling and delicate execution. In the building of this Academy are also the studios of Cusa, professor and secretary, and Marghinotti, another academic master. The former, in the *genre* class of subjects, has fantasy and grace. His largest work, a scene of martyrdom, in the Colosseum, is a picture just finished, in which the late King had interested himself, probably with intention of purchase. Its complicated grouping displays much knowledge of anatomy, and at a distance the effect is telling; but it is a theatrical, not religious or mystic pathos that informs the rather confused action. In smaller pieces the artist is happier, and shows much fecundity. "Michel Angelo working at his statue of Moses before Julius II.," "Savonarola fainting after the torture," "Petrarch seeing Laura for the first time in church," are pleasing pictures of cabinet sizes, felicitous in subject as in treatment. The daughter of Professor Cusa, who has her studio together with her father's, is also an accomplished artist of *genre* subjects. Marghinotti, a Sardinian islander, has executed several large works now at Cagliari, and some in the royal palace here, on historic subjects. His studio-pieces at present, less ambitious, display grace, but not power. He spoke to me with enthusiasm of Lawrence, whose works he has much studied, considering him unsurpassed in portrait painting either by Vandyck or Titian—a remarkable estimate to hear in Italy, where, except the flaunting portrait of George IV. in coronation robes at the Lateran Palace, not one of our great artist's works, to the best of my knowledge, exists. Ariento is the most admired historic painter now living of Turin. His "Repulse of Barbarossa from Alessandria," in the royal palace, is a large work of powerful originality, which I have mentioned in a former letter. A modern historic subject has been ably treated by Cerati, a young artist of promise. This, the "Taking of Sommacampagna by the Duke of Genoa, 25th July, 1848," was ordered by that lately-deceased Prince, and is now being exhibited by permission of his widow; it is a very large picture, with several portraits besides that of the Duke, and the details of the scene sketched on the spot by Cerati, who was himself in the action—the whole forming an impressive and most spirited record of this gallant achievement by the Piedmontese cavalry and ducal staff.

(To be continued.)

SCIENCE, ART, MUSIC, THE DRAMA, &c.

SCIENCE AND INVENTIONS.

THE FORTNIGHT.

At the Institution of Civil Engineers, Mr. Stephenson, M.P., President, applied himself to the great question of the British Railways, which were spread over the United Kingdom to the extent of 8054 miles completed; more than enough of single rails to make a belt of iron round the globe. The cost of these had been 286,000,000. With regard to railway works, these had penetrated the earth with tunnels of more than 50 miles in length: there were eleven miles of viaduct in the neighbourhood of the metropolis alone; the earth-works measured 550,000,000 cubic yards, which would form a pyramid a mile and a half in height, with a base larger than St. James's Park. 80,000,000 of train miles were annually run on the rails. 5000 engines and 150,000 vehicles composed the working stock. 2,000,000 of tons of coals were annually consumed, "so that in every minute of time four tons of coal flashed into steam twenty tons of water." The wear and tear was great: 20,000 tons of iron were annually required for repairs, and 300,000 trees were felled in each year for sleepers. 90,000 men were employed directly, and 40,000 collaterally. These 130,000 men with their wives and families represented a population of 500,000, so that 1 in 50 of the entire population might be said to be dependent on railways. In 1854 111 millions of passengers were conveyed on railways, each passenger averaging 12 miles. The

receipts in the same year amounted to 20,215,000. As to accidents, on the first half of 1854 one accident occurred to every 7,195,343 travellers. How frequent, in comparison, were the accidents in the streets; how fearful the misadventures to those "who go down to the sea in ships." Railway communication was free from the difficulties of the old road and canal traffic, and every obstacle that had opposed science had hitherto effectually surmounted. The postal facilities afforded by railways were very great. Without them, indeed, the penny postage plan never could have been carried out. On Friday night, when the weekly papers were transmitted, from eight to ten vans were required for the North-Western Railway alone. The electric telegraph was the indispensable companion of railways. 7200 miles of telegraph, or at least 36,000 miles of wires were laid down. 3000 people were continually employed, and more than a million of messages were annually flashed along this silent highway.

A communication was made by Professor Owen to the Geological Society on the fossil remains of a Musk Buffalo found in a gravel-pit close to the engine-house at the Maidenhead Station, consisting of the cranial part of the skull, with the horn-cores, nearly perfect, and is the first example of the fossil yet recognised in Britain. It would appear, on comparison with recent crania, that, although there are differences on a few points—especially on the relative curvature of the horn-cores—they are not of specific value. The Bubalus moschatus or Musk Buffalo of the Arctic

regions is the slightly modified descendant of the old companion of the Mammoth and Tichorine Rhinoceros; and the circumstances which have brought about their extinction has not yet affected this species of the Arctic Buffalo. From Maidenhead to the sea, a distance of fifty miles, the valley of the Thames is occupied with a mass of ochreous gravel, from five to fifteen feet thick, and from two to nine miles in width. Land-shells and bones of land-animals had been discovered in this gravel at several localities. This skull of the Musk Buffalo was found, together with fragments of other bones, low down in the gravel, where it begins to be mingled with the chalk rubble.

The last expedition in search of Sir J. Franklin has ended its labours without definite result; although sufficient data seem to have been collected to afford the melancholy presumption that the unfortunate commander and the remains of his crew were, in fact, starved to death. The laurels of the north-west passage, to gain which Franklin thus suffered and perished, have been won by Captain Maclure and his gallant companions; and, this achieved, Arctic expeditions seemed to be doomed, when the recent explorations of Dr. Kane are likely to revive them, only in another direction, by his discovery of a vast unfrozen Polar sea. Captains Parry, Inglefield, and others have before suggested the probability of the existence of an open sea in these higher latitudes. The situation is thus described: "The arm of the sea forming the continuation of Smith's Sound extends almost due east as far as 60° west longitude, when it is deflected

in a N.N.W. direction, until, in latitude 82° north, it expands into an extensive sea." Dr. Kane's party were astonished to find the temperature increase northward until their progress was arrested by the vast sea. A new field is thus opened for geographical discovery, and it may be that the North Pole itself may one day be reached.

Another triumph has just been added to the fame of the ship-builders of the Clyde (the Messrs. Napier) by the paddle steam-ship the *Persia*, the largest steamer yet launched. Her entire length is 390 feet; breadth over all, 71 feet; depth, 32 feet; burden, 3600 tons; and diameter of paddle-wheels, 40 feet. In sailing from the Clyde to Liverpool she realised 19 miles an hour with 20 lbs of pressure on the square inch, while the paddles gave $17\frac{1}{2}$ to 18 revolutions in the minute. This stupendous vessel is intended for the Cunard line.

MEETINGS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

JANUARY.

15. Civil Engineers. 8 p.m.—Mr. J. M. Heppel, "On the Relative Proportions of the Top, Bottom, and Middle Webs of Girders and Tubes."—Linnean. 8 p.m.—Pathological. 8 p.m.
16. Society of Arts. 8 p.m.—Mr. Charles Atherton, C.E., "On Tonnage Registration."—Ethnological. 8 p.m.
17. Antiquaries. 8 p.m.—Royal. 8 p.m.
18. London Institution. 3 p.m.—Mr. P. A. Malone, "On the Elementary Principles of Animal and Vegetable Chemistry."—2 p.m.
19. Medical. 8 p.m.—Asiatic. 2 p.m.
20. Statistical. 8 p.m.—Chemical. 8 p.m.
21. Royal Institution. 3 p.m.—Mr. T. H. Huxley, F.R.S., "On Physiology and Comparative Anatomy."—Medical and Chirurgical. 8 p.m.—Civil Engineers. 8 p.m.—Zoological. 9 p.m.
22. Society of Arts. 8 p.m.—Mr. G. F. Wilson, F.R.S., "On the Manufactures of Price's Patent Candle Company."—Geological. 8 p.m.—R.S. Literature. 4 p.m.—Medical. 8 p.m.—Royal Botanic. 3 p.m.
23. Antiquaries. 8 p.m.—Royal. 8 p.m.—Royal Institution. 3 p.m.—Mr. J. Tyndal, F.R.S., "On the Propagation of Light."—8 p.m.—Mr. W. R. Grove, F.R.S., "Inferences from the Negation of Perpetual Motion."—Philosophical. 8 p.m.
24. Royal Institution. 3 p.m.—Mr. W. Odling, M.B., "On Organic Chemistry."—Medical. 8 p.m.—Royal Botanic. 3 p.m.
25. Geographical. 8 p.m.—Entomological. 8 p.m.—British Architects. 8 p.m.—Institute of Actuaries. 7 p.m.
26. Royal Institution. 3 p.m.—Mr. T. H. Huxley, F.R.S., "On Physiology and Comparative Anatomy."—Civil Engineers. 8 p.m.
27. Society of Arts. 8 p.m.—Mr. J. Fowler, jun., "On the Cultivation by Steam: its past history and probable prospects."—Microscopical. 8 p.m.
28. Royal Institution. 3 p.m.—Mr. J. Tyndal, F.R.S., "On Reflection of Light."—Antiquaries. 8 p.m.—Royal. 8 p.m.—Numismatic. 7 p.m.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL SCIENCE.

M. L'ABBE COCHET has just published in an octavo volume, with woodcuts, under the title of *Epigraphie de la Seine Inférieure*, the ancient inscriptions of that department from the earliest which remain down to the middle of the sixteenth century. There are only a few inscriptions of the Roman period; none of the early Christian inscriptions which are found in some other localities, a goodly number from the twelfth century downwards, including several of considerable interest.

M. Leroux de Lincy has edited, by Guillebert de Metz, the *Description de la Ville de Paris*, already partially known to the public. Those who are interested, not only in Paris, but in the architecture and disposition of mediæval cities generally, and in that kind of research which is aided by descriptions of old houses and inventories of their contents, will find much to their purpose in this volume. The date to which the descriptions refer is the early part of the fifteenth century.

The well-known Count de Laborde has recently published a work in two 8vo. volumes, entitled *Athènes aux XVe, XVIe, et XVIIe Siècles*, in which he publishes a series of documents, entirely new or imperfectly known, which throw light upon the condition of Athens and of its monuments during the period before they had suffered so much from time, and, above all, from the antiquarian spoliations of all Europe. Sylla punished the long resistance of the city against him by commencing that destruction which has proceeded through all the ages since. A little later, Nero despoiled it of its paintings and its statues. In vain Adrian, in his love for Greek art, sought to repair and adorn and aggrandize it; his efforts were only an outrage the more, so difficult is it to touch those *chef-d'œuvres* of art without injuring them. Severus took away the privileges of the city because it had taken part with his rival, Pescennius Niger. The Sythians menaced it under the Emperor Gallien. Under Claudius Gothicus the Goths had seized upon and were near burning all its libraries. Justinian did it more harm than the Goths by closing its schools. With the reign of Justinian commences the long oblivion of Athens. The Franks seized it at the time of the Crusades, and it gave the title of Duke of Athens to a series of warriors, who took little thought of Ictinus or of Phidias. It was Mahomet the Second who made Athens again a name of note in Europe. The earliest document descriptive of the

condition of Athens during those later ages which the Count presents to us, is a description of the theatres and schools of Athens, written by some Greek stranger in Attica, about the year 1460, and some drawings of its principal monuments, which, however, are not of very great value. It is not until the time of the embassy of Deshayes, under Louis XIII., and the missions given by the Earl of Arundel, and above all, the journey of Nointel, in 1674, that the glorious works of the ancient artists of Greece began to attract general notice. In the suite of Nointel was an artist Jacques Currey, who made sketches, among other things, of the façades and metopes and friezes of the Parthenon, preserving to us reminiscences of many noble works which are now lost for ever. Immediately after comes the antiquary Spon, with his account of the present state of the city of Athens. M. de Laborde has reprinted this scarce work, which, by the accurate details which it contains, may be regarded as the first attempt of modern erudition to present to the public an exact picture of the city of Pericles. The Count gives a photograph of the head, believed to be the head of the wingless Victory, from the façade of the Parthenon, which he purchased at Venice. The present work is only a portion of a larger one upon the Parthenon, which is to contain fac-similes of the sketches of Jacques Currey, and a faithful reproduction of fragments of sculpture, which, with the marbles in the British Museum, will complete the elements for a complete restoration of the great work of Phidias.

ART AND ARTISTS.

TALK OF THE STUDIOS.

M. Claudet has just published a portrait, engraved on steel, of the late Edward Forbes.—The portrait of Mr. Lockhart, painted by Mr. Pickersgill, has just been engraved by Mr. Doo, in his most careful manner.—The inappropriate vainscot-work by which one was introduced into Westminster Abbey from Poets' Corner has just been removed, and a pair of doors erected, in keeping with the architecture of the Abbey.—The statue of Charles I., at Charing-cross, has been restored, and made secure on its pedestal.—Professor Kiss, of Berlin, has commenced the execution of an equestrian statue of King Frederick William III., as likewise that of a monument to be erected to the late Privy Councillor Beuth.

MUSIC AND MUSICIANS.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC CHIT CHAT.

The talented composer, M. Balfe, has returned to England, after a protracted and successful tour through Russia, Germany, and Italy. In the latter country he produced the opera of "The Bohemian Girl," under the title of "La Zingara," with great success.—Mr. Mitchell (says a provincial paper) has engaged Madame Goldschmidt and her husband for twenty weeks, and for that period they are to receive 20,000*l.*, on the condition that they perform at three concerts in each week. We have also heard that an eminent musical firm offered to give Mr. Mitchell 5000*l.* for his engagement.—Mr. Webster intends rebuilding the Adelphi Theatre, on an enlarged scale, during the summer recess.—Foreign journals state that Mr. Charles Braham is succeeding well at the Lisbon Opera House, especially in the operas of Signor Verdi.—The number of pieces produced at the Paris theatres in the course of the last year—tragedy, opera, comedy, vaudeville, melodrama, or farce—was not fewer than 296.

LITERARY NEWS.

The announcement in the columns of a contemporary, that "Mr. Layard has another work on Assyrian Antiquities in the press," is incorrect.—The Kaffir Journals of Sir George Cathcart, who fell before Sebastopol, are in the press; and Mr. Danby Seymour, M.P., is preparing another volume.—Mr. Rogers has left several volumes of Memoirs. These are in the hands of Mr. Moxon, and will be given to the reading world without loss of time. Rogers's personal property is said to be under 25,000*l.* The pictures and books are possibly worth 40,000*l.*—Mr. Theodore Fay, the American minister, resident in the Helvetic republic, is engaged in writing a "History of Switzerland."—The *Cheltenham Observer*, a recently-established periodical, published at 1*d.*, closed its career on Wednesday last.—The *Northern Daily Times*, the first cheap daily paper started in Liverpool, has raised its price from 1*d.* to 1*d.* just 50 per cent. No explanation of this step is given by the proprietors.—Mr. Macaulay's health is by no means such as his friends and admirers would wish it to be. He experiences great difficulty in conversing even for a short time.—Mr. John Forster, author of a "Life of Goldsmith" and other popular books, and editor of the *Examiner*, has been gazetted Secretary to the Commission of Lunacy—a place worth 800*l.* a-year, and involving a residence in London. Mr. Proctor (Barry Cornwall) is a member of the Commission,

with a salary of 1500*l.*—Her Majesty has been pleased to grant a pension of 25*l.* a year to Mr. Joseph Haydn, author of the well-known "Dictionary of Dates."—The Rev. William Cureton, Canon of Westminster, has been elected a member of the Académie des Inscriptions et Belles Lettres of the Institute of France, to supply the vacancy caused by the death of Dr. Gaisford, the celebrated scholar and Dean of Christ Church.—The Council of the Royal Society have appointed the Bishop of Oxford as Fairchild Lecturer for the present year.

The Academy of Sciences, of Paris, has elected M. Binet, president, and M. J. Geoffrey Saint Hilaire, vice-president, for the present year.—Herr Campe, the Hamburg publisher of Dr. Vohse's work on the German Courts, has been liberated on bail. Dr. Vohse still remains in his Berlin prison.—The expedition sent out by the Hudson's Bay Company in search of the remains of Franklin, by way of the Great Fish River, has found undoubted traces of the missing party, sufficient to verify the researches of Dr. Rae, but no actual bones or documents.—A lady is likely to succeed Count Oubaroff as President of the Academy of Sciences at St. Petersburg. Two male candidates are in the field, M. Noraff, Minister of Public Instruction, and Baron Modeste de Korff. But the chances are said to be in favour of the Grand Duchess Helen.—The Compositors' Library, Racquet-court, Fleet-street, has lately been enriched by a donation of fifty-one volumes, the gift of the proprietor of the *Illustrated London News*, which, added to the recent gifts of Sir Frederick Foster, Bart., Vere Foster, Esq., and others, makes a total of about 2500 volumes in the library.—On Friday week the copyright of the *Manchester Daily Telegraph*, the first cheap or penny newspaper established in the provinces, was announced for sale by auction at the King's Arms Hotel, Manchester, after an existence of fifteen months. There was only one bidder, and he, being unable to pay a deposit of 10*l.*, did not become a purchaser.—The Emperor Napoleon, with fine taste and delicate courtesy (says the *Athenæum*), has sent over to the Queen a very pretty and very precious Christmas gift. It is in the form of a Lady's Album—and the substance of it is an artistic Memorial of Her Majesty's Visit to Paris. The drawings are in water colour, by the most renowned French masters. The Queen at Boulogne is by M. Morel Fatio, and the Departure from that Port by M. Mozin. M. Chavet contributes two illustrations to the Royal Album—the Ball at Versailles, and the Imperial Supper. The Queen's Arrival in Paris is drawn by M. Guérard. M. Eugène Lami illustrates the Arrival at St. Cloud. A few other drawings are by artists less known in England. The case which contains these treasures is got up in the most exquisite style, and with all the richness of ornamentation for which French design is renowned. The book, we believe, was produced for the Emperor at a cost of a thousand guineas.

DRAMA, PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS, &c.

THE PANTOMIMES.

THE ADELPHI.—*Jack and the Bean Stalk; or Harlequin Mother Goose at Home again*, by Mr. Mark Lemon. *Urgent Private Affairs*: a farce in one act, by Mr. Sterling Coyne.

THE HAYMARKET.—*The Butterfly's Ball and the Grasshopper's Feast*, by Mr. Buckstone.

SADLER'S WELLS.—*Harlequin and Puss in Boots*, by Mr. Greenwood.

STRAND.—*Harlequin Black-Eyed Sue*, by Mr. F. Talfourd. *The Holly Tree Inn*.

DRURY LANE.—*The Great Gun Trick*: a farce in one act. *The Queen versus Smith*.

COVENT GARDEN.—*Ye Belle Alliance*, by Mr. Sala. *Rob Roy*.

By dint of very hard work during the fortnight, I have contrived to see all the various pieces and pantomimes enumerated above; and if any body thinks that that is not a very serious undertaking I shall be obliged to him if he will suspend his judgment until he has tried the experiment for himself.

The greatest innovation of the season in the pantomime way is decidedly Madame Celeste's bold experiment at the Adelphi: she plays Harlequin herself, and plays it well too, *selon les règles*, and according to all the traditions. Rather too bold an experiment, some of our fair readers will exclaim, when they remember the not too voluminous costume in which the M. C. of the pantomimic revels is wont to appear. But no; it is so contrived that there is nothing indecent about it; and that person must be one of those very nice persons satirised by Swift, who pretends to take the slightest exception to it. As for the pantomime itself, it is greatly beyond the general average of these matters. The entire pantomime presents such an *embarras de richesses* in the way of novelties that I can do no more than specify a few of them. The Snowball ballet of the Snowdown Volunteers would have a very pretty effect were it not that the snowballs get entangled, and then the fairies quarrel (in a suppressed, fine-dressing sort of manner), and that is an effect the very reverse of pretty. The introduction of the *Spirit of the Harp* is very charming, and a more witching little personage than Miss Mary Keeley

looks, as she appears in the plinth of the harp, it would be difficult to conceive. At the transformation, a Watteau-like effect is produced by disclosing Harlequin and Columbine, Clown, Pantaloon, and Pierrot, in a lozenge-shaped frame, at the back of the stage. The harlequinade is uncommonly well kept up by Madame Celeste as Harlequin; Miss Wyndham, a Columbine beyond all praise; Mr. Garden, who, to the talents of an excellent and versatile actor, is not ashamed to superadd the agility of a clown; Mr. C. J. Smith, a very humorous Pantaloon; and Mr. Le Barr, the most agile of Pierrots. Many of the tricks seemed novel and good—if anything, a trifle too ingenious; but that is a fault on the right side.

Urgent Private Affairs is one of that peculiar order of pieces called *Adelphi screamers*; compositions peculiarly adapted to the capabilities of the actors and to the capacities of the persons who usually compose the audience of that theatre. No one understands better than Mr. Sterling Coyne the happy knack of pleasing the vulgar without offending the taste of the judicious, and therein lies the secret of his great and deserved popularity. *Urgent Private Affairs* does not contain, as the name would seem to imply, anything personal to our Crimean heroes. The fun is entirely at the expense of the militia, who can very well afford it.

The Butterfly's Ball and the Grasshopper's Feast is a very clever expansion of the old nursery ballad of the same name. The whole insect world seems here pressed into Mr. Buckstone's service, and the admirable manner in which the little lepidopterous and coleopterous beings are copied is almost all praise. The mounting of the pantomime is superb, and nothing can be more exquisite than some of Mr. Calcott's scenery.

At Sadler's Wells Mr. Greenwood's capital pantomime appropriately concludes an entertainment which commences with the fairy wonders of the *Midsummer Night's Dream*. Miss Rose Edouin, the inimitable little Puck of Shakspeare's comedy, enacts Puss in Boots to the life. The opening scenes of the pantomime are smart and clever, and the entertaining power of the comic scenes is greatly enhanced by the wonderful contortionist powers of Mr. Deulin and his three clever sons. The scenery, &c., are superb.

The little Strand seems to have gained a renovated youth under the management of Mr. Payne, and crowds are nightly drawn within its narrow limits by the potent name of Mr. Talfourd, who is the author of the pantomime. There is an atrocious version of the *Holly Tree Inn*, by a Mr. Johnstone, which would not be worth mentioning if it had not been the means of introducing to the London stage Miss Herbert, a young lady of uncommon ability. Nature has given her a gloriously expressive face, a wealth of golden hair that sits her head like a diadem, and one of those lithe and eloquent forms whose every motion is expressive of sentiment. The advent of such unwonted talent upon the stage must be hailed as an event; and it is to be hoped that it will not be long before she appears upon some more public stage, with something better to say than the miserable trash put into her mouth by the author of this audacious distortion of a charming tale. *Black-eyed Sue* is a brisk little pantomime, with plenty of jokes and smart bustling incident. Mademoiselle Hinrade is the best Columbine of the season beyond all comparison.

The pantomime at Drury-lane is realising all our predictions respecting it, for the house is filled every night to overflowing, and the boxes are booked for nearly a fortnight to come. A clever little skit upon the Wizard of the North, entitled *The Great Gun Trick*, is causing some good-natured laughter at Mr. Anderson's expense; who, however, seems determined not to be outdone, judging by an announcement of a piece entitled *Twenty Minutes with an Impudent Puppy*. This "retort courteous" is from the clever pen of Mr. Brough, and it is expected that Drury-lane will not take much from its attack upon the enterprising Wizard. Mr. Leigh Murray is to be "the double" of Charles Mathews, and great things are expected by those who are acquainted with the powers of mimicry possessed by that clever artist.

A very absurd and undue prominence has lately been given to a dispute between Mr. E. T. Smith and the directors of the private performances at Windsor Castle. Those persons are greatly to be blamed, whoever they may be, who have presumed to drag the name of Her Majesty the Queen into these petty squabbles of the *contes*. The plain facts of the case appear to be; firstly, that Mr. E. T. Smith has taken offence at the fact that there has been no royal box at his theatre since the commencement of his management; secondly, that the tone assumed by Mr. Charles Kean, of the Princess's Theatre (to whom the arrangement of the Windsor performances is confided), has given great offence to Mr. Smith, as it has to many other persons; and thirdly, that if Mr. Charles Mathews were to go to Windsor Castle for a night, Mr. Smith would be put to a great pecuniary loss, which he sees no opportunity of regaining through any patronage from that quarter. The consequence is that Mr. Charles Mathews is not to go to the Castle, and certain persons are making as much fuss about it as if Mr. Smith were a second Jack Cade. I dare say, however, that the affair will blow over

without there being any necessity to call a Cabinet Council upon it. It seems scarcely necessary to say that, under the circumstances, Mr. Smith is perfectly justified in all that he has done. All that I complain of is the preposterous attempt to swell the affair into the magnitude of a state quarrel. The idea of a personal dispute between Mr. E. T. Smith and the Queen of England is simply ridiculous.

I had almost brought my notice to a close without saying a word about Mr. Sala's pantomime of *Je Belle Alliance*. In a word, it is unworthy of him. The language of the opening is too nonsensical even for a pantomime. Some amends, however, are made by the splendid, yet lavish mounting of the piece, and by Mr. Beverley's beautiful scenery. Last night Mr. Anderson himself made his first appearance in London as an actor, in the character of "Rob Roy." However, I must defer my notice of that great event until the next number.

JACQUES.

OBITUARY.

CONDER, Josiah, for many years the Editor of the *Eclectic Review* and of the *Modern Traveller*.

DAVIN, Jean-Pierre (of Angers), the celebrated French sculptor. He was born on the 12th of May, 1793, at Angers.

FOLLEN, August Adolf Ludwig, at Bern (brother to the late Prof. Carl Follen, of Cambridge, Massachusetts). Author of "Freie Stimmen frischer Jugend" and "Bildersaal deutscher Dichtung." He was also an eminent translator of Greek, Latin, and Italian poetry.

GOULBURN, the Right Hon. Henry, M.P. for the University of Cambridge, on Saturday morning, at Beechworth-house, near Dorking, after a very short illness.

HERMANN, Professor Karl Friedrich, of Göttingen, aged 52, one of the most learned philologists of Germany.

INSON, the sculptor, whose magnificent studio was one of the attractions of Florence, on Dec. 19. He was born at Trieste in 1768, and settled at Florence in 1793, after visiting nearly every part of Europe.

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Table Spoons ...	1 10 0 — 2 0 0	2 16 0 — 3 4 0
Desert ditto ...	1 10 0 — 2 0 0	2 16 0 — 3 4 0
Tea Spoons ...	0 12 0 — 0 18 0	1 5 6 — 1 11 6

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